

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX W

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNIÓN DEL PUEBLO ENTERO,	*	
et al.,	*	
Plaintiffs,	*	
	*	
v.	*	Civil Action No.
	*	5:21-cv-844 (XR)
STATE OF TEXAS, et al.,	*	
Defendants.	*	

ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED 30(b)(6) DEPOSITION OF
THE DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
THROUGH ITS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE,
MICHAEL SCARPELLO
APRIL 13, 2023

DEPOSITION of MICHAEL SCARPELLO,
produced as a witness at the instance of the
Plaintiffs, and duly sworn, was taken in the
above-styled and numbered cause on the 13th day of
April, 2023, from 10:20 a.m. to 2:25 p.m., before
Christy R. Sievert, CSR, RPR, in and for the State
of Texas, reported by machine shorthand, at the
offices of the Dallas County Records Building, 500
Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, pursuant to the Federal
Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions stated
on the record or attached hereto.

<p>18</p> <p>1 2022 general election, correct?</p> <p>2 A. Correct.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you use the same polling places for</p> <p>4 early voting that you did for election day?</p> <p>5 A. We used a certain amount of polling places</p> <p>6 for early voting and then additional -- then used</p> <p>7 those also plus additional ones for election day. I</p> <p>8 think it was 50 early voting places and 469 election</p> <p>9 day.</p> <p>10 Q. And on election day, were you polling</p> <p>11 places vote centers?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And for early voting, were your 50 polling</p> <p>14 places, 50ish, were they vote centers as well?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And it's correct to say that you used vote</p> <p>17 by mail for certain voters for the 2022 general</p> <p>18 election, correct?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you know approximately what percent of</p> <p>21 ballots were cast by mail in the 2022 general</p> <p>22 election?</p> <p>23 A. I do not. I don't recall.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you send applications for ballot by</p> <p>25 mail for the 2022 general to any voters who had not</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1 I think an 8.5 by 11 or -- 8.5 by 14-inch insert</p> <p>2 with verbiage from top to bottom, as well as the</p> <p>3 vote by mail envelope being chock-full of verbiage</p> <p>4 also. And it's been my experience that when you do</p> <p>5 that -- when you have that sort of thing, no one</p> <p>6 reads anything, and, thus, the compliance with those</p> <p>7 rules is -- is not good.</p> <p>8 And so what we did is we summarized on</p> <p>9 a -- we put on a pink sheet step-by-step</p> <p>10 instructions to help voters understand what the</p> <p>11 requirements were. And using kind of the best</p> <p>12 practices, plain language, getting it down to a, you</p> <p>13 know, fifth, sixth grade level so that people can</p> <p>14 understand what they need to do to return that mail</p> <p>15 ballot.</p> <p>16 Q. And so did you have a name for that insert?</p> <p>17 What did you call that insert?</p> <p>18 A. Abbreviated instructions.</p> <p>19 Q. Who created the abbreviated instructions?</p> <p>20 A. I did.</p> <p>21 Q. And did you work with other members of your</p> <p>22 staff --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- in consultation?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>1 requested an application --</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. -- for ballot by mail?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you know whether in 20- -- do you know</p> <p>6 whether your practice in the 2022 general election</p> <p>7 of not sending unsolicited ABBMs was different than</p> <p>8 Dallas County's practice in 2020?</p> <p>9 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>10 Q. For the 2022 general election, did you</p> <p>11 include any inserts along with either ABBMs or mail</p> <p>12 ballots that were intended to inform voters about</p> <p>13 requirements under SB1?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Can you tell me about those inserts?</p> <p>16 A. The Texas ABBM -- this is in the -- in the</p> <p>17 mail ballot packet, if that's what you're referring</p> <p>18 to.</p> <p>19 Q. Either. Either you included it when you</p> <p>20 sent someone an application for ballot by mail or</p> <p>21 you included it when you sent someone the mail</p> <p>22 ballot packet?</p> <p>23 A. Okay. In the mail ballot packet, we find</p> <p>24 that the items provided by the Secretary of State,</p> <p>25 the required items are incredibly user unfriendly.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1 Q. Did the abbreviated instructions address</p> <p>2 the requirement to provide an identification number</p> <p>3 on the mail ballot --</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. -- material?</p> <p>6 Did you instruct the voter to provide one</p> <p>7 ID number or two ID numbers?</p> <p>8 A. We instructed them to -- we advised them to</p> <p>9 provide both numbers.</p> <p>10 Q. Does the Secretary of State's material</p> <p>11 advise the voter to provide both?</p> <p>12 A. I don't recall, but I don't think so.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you provide the abbreviated</p> <p>14 instructions sheet in languages other than English?</p> <p>15 A. I believe so. I can't remember, but I -- I</p> <p>16 believe so, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Would Ms. Tacoma Phillips know?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. I will ask her that question.</p> <p>20 Did the Secretary of State provide you</p> <p>21 guidance on including additional materials in your</p> <p>22 mail ballot packet to assist voters in meeting the</p> <p>23 new ID requirements?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you send any similar inserts to voters</p>

<p>130</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And do you recall saying that the turnout</p> <p>3 rate for mail voting as compared to overall voting</p> <p>4 was down in November 2022?</p> <p>5 A. That's my -- my vague memory of it is yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. What did you mean by "previous</p> <p>7 elections"? What was your comparison?</p> <p>8 A. Well, prior to going into an election, I</p> <p>9 talked about how we project and we do our</p> <p>10 projections. So we look at similar type of</p> <p>11 elections over the last several years. And not only</p> <p>12 the overall turnout but turnout by type and then</p> <p>13 turnout by location. My general impression is that</p> <p>14 vote by mail, we -- the projections weren't -- the</p> <p>15 actual numbers weren't as high as we projected based</p> <p>16 off of historic turnout.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you know if these voters would have</p> <p>18 voted in person?</p> <p>19 A. Don't know.</p> <p>20 Q. And when you said you were looking at the</p> <p>21 past elections in your analysis for projection, was</p> <p>22 that looking at midterm elections, or did that also</p> <p>23 include looking at presidential?</p> <p>24 A. We look at all elections but focus on the</p> <p>25 similar type of election. But I will say that</p>	<p>132</p> <p>1 rejection rate compared to the primary elections,</p> <p>2 correct?</p> <p>3 A. Correct.</p> <p>4 Q. And it was able to reduce its rejection</p> <p>5 rates as compared to the primary runoff and the May</p> <p>6 election, correct?</p> <p>7 A. Correct.</p> <p>8 Q. And you -- Dallas County will be continuing</p> <p>9 to work to reduce the number of rejection rates in</p> <p>10 elections going forward, correct?</p> <p>11 A. Correct.</p> <p>12 Q. You still have rejections due to lack of</p> <p>13 signature, mismatched signature or statement of</p> <p>14 residence; is that correct?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Will you be working to decrease those</p> <p>17 rejections as well?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you know what the cure process was</p> <p>20 perSB1?</p> <p>21 A. I'm vaguely familiar with it.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you expect the rejection rate to ever be</p> <p>23 zero?</p> <p>24 A. Rejection rate for applications or carrier</p> <p>25 envelopes?</p>
<p>131</p> <p>1 there's -- there's no so many factors that play into</p> <p>2 turnout, that it's -- it's an art as much as it is a</p> <p>3 science.</p> <p>4 Q. So I guess I'm just trying to understand</p> <p>5 your -- your answer. Is it that the rate was not as</p> <p>6 high as you projected, or is it down compared to</p> <p>7 previous elections?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know that it's down compared to</p> <p>9 previous elections. I can very easily pull up that</p> <p>10 information. I just don't recall. My general</p> <p>11 impression was that it was down.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you recall telling counsel you thought</p> <p>13 the rejection rate was too high?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. So I kind of want to understand what your</p> <p>16 baseline is. So in your mind, what should the</p> <p>17 rejection be?</p> <p>18 A. It should be zero.</p> <p>19 Q. Would you then consider a 1 percent</p> <p>20 rejection rate to be too high?</p> <p>21 A. I think any rejection rate is too high.</p> <p>22 Q. Are you aware of any election that had a</p> <p>23 zero percent rejection rate?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Dallas County was able to reduce its</p>	<p>133</p> <p>1 Q. Carrier envelopes.</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 THE STENOGRAPHER: I'm sorry, your</p> <p>4 answer?</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: No.</p> <p>6 A. And I'll elaborate. No, under the current</p> <p>7 law.</p> <p>8 BY MS. HUNKER:</p> <p>9 Q. Do you think that the rejection rate due to</p> <p>10 lack of signature will ever be zero?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you think the rejection rate regarding</p> <p>13 mismatched signature will ever be zero?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. And do you think that the rejection rate</p> <p>16 do -- voters not including required statement of</p> <p>17 residence will ever be zero?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. You talked with counsel about the</p> <p>20 abbreviated insert, correct?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you include a type of abbreviated</p> <p>23 insert prior to SB1?</p> <p>24 MS. PERALES: Objection; asked and</p> <p>25 answered.</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX X

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO,)
et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.)
 Defendants)
)
)

CASE NO.
5:21-cv-844-XR
(LEAD CASE)

OCA-GREATER HOUSTON, et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
JANE NELSON, et al.)
 Defendants)
)
)

CASE NO.
1:21-cv-780-XR

HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE,)
et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
GREGORY WAYNE ABBOTT, et al.)
 Defendants)
)
)

CASE NO.
5:21-cv-848-XR

LULAC TEXAS, et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
JANE NELSON, et al.)
 Defendants)
)
)

CASE NO.
1:21-cv-0786-XR

Anne Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 2 to 5

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 MIFAMILIA VOTA, et al.)(</p> <p>2 Plaintiffs)(</p> <p>3 VS.)(CASE NO.</p> <p>4)(5:21-cv-0920-XR</p> <p>5 GREG ABBOTT, et al.)(</p> <p>6 Defendants)(</p> <hr/> <p>6 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)(</p> <p>7 Plaintiff)(</p> <p>8 VS.)(CASE NO.</p> <p>9)(5:21-cv-1085-XR</p> <p>10 THE STATE OF TEXAS, et al.)(</p> <p>11 Defendants)(</p> <hr/> <p>12 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF</p> <p>13 ANNE SCOTT</p> <p>14 APRIL 18, 2023</p> <hr/> <p>15 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF ANNE SCOTT,</p> <p>16 produced as a witness at the instance of the State</p> <p>17 Defendants, taken in the above-styled and numbered</p> <p>18 cause on APRIL 18, 2023, between the hours of 9:44 a.m.</p> <p>19 and 11:04 a.m., reported stenographically by DONNA</p> <p>20 McCOWN, Certified Court Reporter No. 6625, in and for</p> <p>21 the State of Texas, at 7030 Mile 2 3/4 East, Mercedes,</p> <p>22 Texas, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure</p> <p>23 and any provisions stated on the record or attached</p> <p>24 therein.</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>2 DANIEL J. FREEMAN, via Zoom</p> <p>3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</p> <p>4 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 4CON 8.143</p> <p>5 Washington, DC 20530</p> <p>6 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO,</p> <p>7 et al.:</p> <p>8 PATRICK BERRY, via Zoom</p> <p>9 BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE</p> <p>10 120 Broadway, Suite 1750</p> <p>11 New York, New York 10271</p> <p>12 ALSO PRESENT:</p> <p>13 Rene Ortiz, Videographer</p> <p>14 INDEX</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 APPEARANCES</p> <p>2 COUNSEL FOR STATE DEFENDANTS:</p> <p>3 DAVID BRYANT</p> <p>4 OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>5 P.O. Box 12548</p> <p>6 Austin, Texas, 78711-2548</p> <p>7 COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTIONS</p> <p>8 ADMINISTRATOR:</p> <p>9 LEIGH ANN TOGNETTI</p> <p>10 HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE</p> <p>11 100 East Cano Street</p> <p>12 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p> <p>13 COUNSEL FOR INTERVENOR DEFENDANTS:</p> <p>14 STEPHEN KENNY, via Zoom</p> <p>15 JONES DAY</p> <p>16 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW</p> <p>17 Washington, DC 20001</p> <p>18 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS OCA-GREATER HOUSTON, et al.:</p> <p>19 LISA SNEAD</p> <p>20 DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>21 222 West Braker Lane</p> <p>22 Austin, Texas, 78758-1024</p> <p>23 LUCIA ROMANO, via Zoom</p> <p>24 DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>25 1500 McGowen, Suite 100</p> <p>Houston, Texas 77004</p> <p>CHRISTOPHER MCGREAL, via Zoom</p> <p>DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>1420 West Mockingbird Lane, Suite 450</p> <p>Dallas, Texas 75247</p> <p>COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE,</p> <p>et al.:</p> <p>DESTINY LOPEZ, via Zoom</p> <p>REED SMITH, LLP</p> <p>355 South Grand Avenue No. 2900</p> <p>Los Angeles, California, 90071</p>	<p>1 EXHIBITS</p> <p>2 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE</p> <p>3 1 Notice of Deposition 27</p> <p>4 2 Sixth Supplemental Initial Disclosures .. 27</p> <p>5 3 REV UP Website Pages 34</p> <p>6 4 The Arc of Texas Website Pages 35</p> <p>7 5 Texas Secretary of State Website Pages .. 37</p> <p>8 6 Impact Report, The Arc of Texas 38</p> <p>9 7 Texas Department of Public Safety Website</p> <p>Pages 39</p> <p>10 8 Texas by Texas Webpages 42</p> <p>11 9 Texas by Texas Welcome Webpage 43</p> <p>12 10 Texas Department of Public Safety</p> <p>Website Pages 43</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

Anne Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 14 to 17

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 Q. And did she also vote in person?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>4 Q. In connection with the 2022 general election,</p> <p>5 did you submit an application for a mail-in ballot?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>7 Q. And did your daughter Taylor also submit an</p> <p>8 application for a mail-in ballot?</p> <p>9 A. I submitted one for her.</p> <p>10 Q. And did you provide on your application for a</p> <p>11 mail-in ballot an identification number of some kind?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>13 Q. What type of identification number did you</p> <p>14 submit with your application for a ballot by mail in</p> <p>15 the 2022 general election?</p> <p>16 A. I believe I submitted my passport number.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you submit only one number, or did you</p> <p>18 submit multiple numbers?</p> <p>19 A. I think it was just the one number on the</p> <p>20 passport.</p> <p>21 Q. Was that a United States passport that was</p> <p>22 still active --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- not expired?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, sir.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 Q. Approximately when did you do that?</p> <p>2 A. There again, I really don't remember the date.</p> <p>3 I'm sorry. I just --</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. And sometime after you submitted your</p> <p>5 mail-in ballot in connection with the 2022 general</p> <p>6 election, did you receive some type of communication or</p> <p>7 return of that ballot prior to the general election?</p> <p>8 A. I -- I received the ballot back before the</p> <p>9 election, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. When you received your mail-in ballot</p> <p>11 back, do you know if you received it from the Hidalgo</p> <p>12 County Election Office or from the U.S. Postal Service</p> <p>13 or from whom?</p> <p>14 A. It was the election office, because it was</p> <p>15 stamped.</p> <p>16 Q. And what did the stamp say on it?</p> <p>17 A. It just said "return" -- I don't even remember</p> <p>18 what it said, but there was a stamp on it, and it said</p> <p>19 return for more information or something. I don't</p> <p>20 really recall, but it was stamped by the Hidalgo County</p> <p>21 Election Office.</p> <p>22 Q. I take it from that answer that you don't</p> <p>23 recall what specific information the Hidalgo County</p> <p>24 Election Office indicated you needed to provide in</p> <p>25 order to -- or to have a mail-in ballot that they would</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 Q. And approximately when did you submit that</p> <p>2 application for a mail-in ballot in connection with the</p> <p>3 2022 general election?</p> <p>4 A. I'm sorry. I really don't remember. It was</p> <p>5 during early -- it was before early voting, I believe.</p> <p>6 And I'm sorry. I don't really remember the date.</p> <p>7 Q. After you submitted that application for a</p> <p>8 mail-in ballot, did you receive a mail-in ballot?</p> <p>9 A. I did, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Approximately, when did you receive that</p> <p>11 mail-in ballot for the 2022 general election?</p> <p>12 A. I'm sorry. I don't remember.</p> <p>13 Q. I believe you said that you filled in your</p> <p>14 mail-in ballot once you had received it; is that</p> <p>15 correct?</p> <p>16 A. That is correct.</p> <p>17 Q. And did you submit an identification number or</p> <p>18 numbers of some kind on that mail-in ballot?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>20 Q. What identification number or numbers did you</p> <p>21 submit?</p> <p>22 A. My United States passport number.</p> <p>23 Q. And did you mail in that mail-in ballot to the</p> <p>24 proper address in Hidalgo County?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, sir.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 accept?</p> <p>2 A. That is correct.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you attempt to get any help from anyone to</p> <p>4 try to determine what you needed to do to provide</p> <p>5 information requested by the Hidalgo County Election</p> <p>6 Office so your mail-in ballot would be accepted?</p> <p>7 A. No, I did not contact anyone.</p> <p>8 Q. Why did you not contact anyone to get some</p> <p>9 assistance in that matter?</p> <p>10 A. Well, I was going to have to transport Taylor</p> <p>11 over to -- because she did not get a ballot, so I</p> <p>12 figured, well, if I have to transport Taylor over</p> <p>13 there, I might as well take my ballot in hand and do it</p> <p>14 there in Mercedes at the polls.</p> <p>15 Q. At any time prior to completing the mail-in</p> <p>16 ballot for the 2022 general election, did you do</p> <p>17 anything to get information about what types of</p> <p>18 identification numbers were required or acceptable?</p> <p>19 A. No. I figured a U.S. passport would be fine.</p> <p>20 I didn't use my driver's license because my name is</p> <p>21 misspelled, and so it's not my correct name. So</p> <p>22 that -- I use that as a form of identification wherever</p> <p>23 I go, and it seems to work.</p> <p>24 Q. In 2022, did you have a valid Texas driver's</p> <p>25 license?</p>

Anne Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 18 to 21

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>2 Q. In 2022, did you have a Social Security number?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you consider submitting the last four</p> <p>5 digits of your Social Security number on the</p> <p>6 application for mail-in ballot or on the mail-in ballot</p> <p>7 as an identification number?</p> <p>8 A. I believe I did also, but I can't remember</p> <p>9 if -- if I did or not, but I -- if it -- if they asked</p> <p>10 for it, I'm sure I did.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you look at anything either online or any</p> <p>12 materials in paper form to determine whether or not a</p> <p>13 passport number was an acceptable form of</p> <p>14 identification for voting in Texas?</p> <p>15 A. I assume a passport would -- a valid passport</p> <p>16 would be just about the best identification you could</p> <p>17 have.</p> <p>18 Q. My question was whether you did anything to --</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. -- determine that rather than just assume.</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. When -- strike that.</p> <p>23 When did your daughter first register to</p> <p>24 vote?</p> <p>25 A. Before the 2020 election, but I can't remember</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 Q. In 2022, did you or Taylor take any steps to</p> <p>2 attempt to renew her Texas state ID card?</p> <p>3 A. No, sir.</p> <p>4 Q. What was the reason for not taking any steps</p> <p>5 like that in 2022?</p> <p>6 A. I guess just being lazy.</p> <p>7 Q. And have you or Taylor taken any steps in 2023</p> <p>8 so far to attempt to renew her Texas state ID card?</p> <p>9 A. No, we have not.</p> <p>10 Q. Is there any reason for that?</p> <p>11 A. Taylor still does not go out in the public,</p> <p>12 normally. She does go to day care. Everyone wears a</p> <p>13 mask. Most people at day care are medically fragile.</p> <p>14 They're tested once a week for COVID. So it's kind of</p> <p>15 a closed situation.</p> <p>16 So Taylor goes to day care and comes home,</p> <p>17 and that's pretty much it for her. Like a lot of</p> <p>18 medically fragile people, we have to be very careful.</p> <p>19 She is up-to-date on her COVID shots and everything,</p> <p>20 but we still worry about her because of her medical</p> <p>21 condition.</p> <p>22 Q. Does your daughter Taylor have a Social</p> <p>23 Security number?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, she does.</p> <p>25 Q. How long has she had a Social Security number,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 the exact date.</p> <p>2 Q. In 2022, did your daughter have a Texas</p> <p>3 driver's license?</p> <p>4 A. She had an expired Texas ID.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. So she did not have a driver's license,</p> <p>6 but she had a state ID card?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>8 Q. And how long had she had a Texas state ID card?</p> <p>9 A. I'm going to say since she was 20 years old.</p> <p>10 It went through two cycles of renewal, because I did it</p> <p>11 online once, so...</p> <p>12 Q. And when did the state ID card expire in the</p> <p>13 year or two prior to the general election in 2022?</p> <p>14 A. It expired Taylor's birthday 10-25-2020.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you or Taylor take any steps to try to</p> <p>16 renew her state ID card in 2019, 2020, or 2021?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Is there a reason why neither of you took any</p> <p>19 steps to renew her Texas state ID card during those</p> <p>20 years?</p> <p>21 A. Taylor is medically fragile, and this was</p> <p>22 during COVID, and Taylor didn't even leave the house</p> <p>23 for quite -- quite a while. So I already had renewed</p> <p>24 it over -- online previously, so I couldn't do it</p> <p>25 again. So that's the story on that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 roughly?</p> <p>2 A. Probably since she was born.</p> <p>3 Q. By the way, I forgot to say, but I want to say</p> <p>4 any time you want to take a break, feel free to call a</p> <p>5 break. If you have to take care of the dog or anything</p> <p>6 else, please feel free.</p> <p>7 A. I'm fine.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. So what caused Taylor to have an</p> <p>9 interest for the first time in voting in 2022, if</p> <p>10 that's the first time she expressed that interest?</p> <p>11 MS. SNEAD: Objection, form.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: I can still answer the</p> <p>13 question?</p> <p>14 MS. SNEAD: Yes.</p> <p>15 A. I think -- I think just -- just listening to</p> <p>16 the news, and she just decided, "Hey, it's my right. I</p> <p>17 would like to vote, Mom," you know. There was a lot of</p> <p>18 people trying to get out to vote.</p> <p>19 Q. I may have made an error in my question. Did</p> <p>20 she first vote in 2020?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 A. That is correct.</p> <p>24 Q. I asked you about 2022 --</p> <p>25 A. Oh, okay. Okay.</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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§
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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX Y

Taylor Scott

April 18, 2023

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO,)
et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.)
 Defendants)

CASE NO.
5:21-cv-844-XR
(LEAD CASE)

OCA-GREATER HOUSTON, et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
JANE NELSON, et al.)
 Defendants)

CASE NO.
1:21-cv-780-XR

HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE,)
et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
VS.)
)
)
GREGORY WAYNE ABBOTT, et al.)
 Defendants)

CASE NO.
5:21-cv-848-XR

LULAC TEXAS, et al.)
 Plaintiffs)
)
)
VS.)
)
)
JANE NELSON, et al.)
 Defendants)

CASE NO.
1:21-cv-0786-XR

Taylor Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 2 to 5

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 MIFAMILIA VOTA, et al.)(</p> <p>2 Plaintiffs)(</p> <p>3 VS.)(CASE NO.</p> <p>4 GREG ABBOTT, et al.)(</p> <p>5 Defendants)(</p> <hr/> <p>6 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)(</p> <p>7 Plaintiff)(</p> <p>8 VS.)(CASE NO.</p> <p>9 THE STATE OF TEXAS, et al.)(</p> <p>10 Defendants)(</p> <hr/> <p>11 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF</p> <p>12 TAYLOR SCOTT</p> <p>13 APRIL 18, 2023</p> <hr/> <p>14 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF TAYLOR SCOTT,</p> <p>15 produced as a witness at the instance of the State</p> <p>16 Defendants, taken in the above-styled and numbered</p> <p>17 cause on APRIL 18, 2023, between the hours of</p> <p>18 11:33 a.m. and 11:57 a.m., reported stenographically by</p> <p>19 DONNA MCCOWN, Certified Court Reporter No. 6625, in and</p> <p>20 for the State of Texas, at 7030 Mile 2 3/4 East,</p> <p>21 Mercedes, Texas, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil</p> <p>22 Procedure and any provisions stated on the record or</p> <p>23 attached therein.</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:</p> <p>2 DANIEL J. FREEMAN, via Zoom</p> <p>3 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</p> <p>4 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 4CON 8.143</p> <p>5 Washington, DC 20530</p> <p>6 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO,</p> <p>7 et al.:</p> <p>8 PATRICK BERRY, via Zoom</p> <p>9 BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE</p> <p>10 120 Broadway, Suite 1750</p> <p>11 New York, New York 10271</p> <p>12 ALSO PRESENT:</p> <p>13 Rene Ortiz, Videographer</p> <p>14 Anne Scott</p> <p>15 INDEX</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 APPEARANCES</p> <p>2 COUNSEL FOR STATE DEFENDANTS:</p> <p>3 DAVID BRYANT</p> <p>4 OFFICE OF THE TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>5 P.O. Box 12548</p> <p>6 Austin, Texas, 78711-2548</p> <p>7 COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTIONS</p> <p>8 ADMINISTRATOR:</p> <p>9 LEIGH ANN TOGNETTI</p> <p>10 HIDALGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE</p> <p>11 100 East Cano Street</p> <p>12 Edinburg, Texas 78539</p> <p>13 COUNSEL FOR INTERVENOR DEFENDANTS:</p> <p>14 STEPHEN KENNY, via Zoom</p> <p>15 JONES DAY</p> <p>16 51 Louisiana Avenue, NW</p> <p>17 Washington, DC 20001</p> <p>18 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS OCA-GREATER HOUSTON, et al.:</p> <p>19 LISA SNEAD</p> <p>20 DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>21 222 West Braker Lane</p> <p>22 Austin, Texas, 78758-1024</p> <p>23 LUCIA ROMANO, via Zoom</p> <p>24 DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>25 1500 McGowen, Suite 100</p> <p>Houston, Texas 77004</p> <p>CHRISTOPHER MCGREAL, via Zoom</p> <p>DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS</p> <p>1420 West Mockingbird Lane, Suite 450</p> <p>Dallas, Texas 75247</p> <p>COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS HOUSTON AREA URBAN LEAGUE,</p> <p>et al.:</p> <p>DESTINY LOPEZ, via Zoom</p> <p>REED SMITH, LLP</p> <p>355 South Grand Avenue No. 2900</p> <p>Los Angeles, California, 90071</p>	<p>1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Today is April 18,</p> <p>2 2023. It is 11:33 a.m. We're on the record.</p> <p>3 TAYLOR SCOTT,</p> <p>4 having been duly sworn, testified as follows:</p> <p>5 EXAMINATION</p> <p>6 BY MR. BRYANT:</p> <p>7 Q. Ms. Scott, my name is David Bryant. I am with</p> <p>8 the Texas Attorney General's Office, and appreciate you</p> <p>9 being here for the deposition today.</p> <p>10 I want to allow the other attorneys to</p> <p>11 state their appearances so everyone will know who's</p> <p>12 participating in the deposition.</p> <p>13 MS. SNEAD: This is Lisa Snead from</p> <p>14 Disability Rights Texas representing the OCA Plaintiffs</p> <p>15 and defending Ms. Scott's deposition.</p> <p>16 MS. TOGNETTI: Leigh Ann Tognetti from the</p> <p>17 Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office representing</p> <p>18 the Hidalgo County Elections Administrator.</p> <p>19 MR. BRYANT: Are there other participants</p> <p>20 on Zoom who want to state an appearance?</p> <p>21 Let the record reflect that there are</p> <p>22 none. And we'll begin the deposition at this time.</p> <p>23 Q. (By Mr. Bryant) Ms. Scott, I'm going to be</p> <p>24 asking you a series of questions. You're under oath</p> <p>25 just as you would be if you were testifying in court or</p>

Taylor Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 6 to 9

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 in front of a judge.</p> <p>2 And so you -- you have an obligation to be</p> <p>3 as truthful as you can. Do you understand that</p> <p>4 obligation?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Have you ever testified in a deposition or</p> <p>7 otherwise --</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. -- before today?</p> <p>10 A. No, sir.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. One of the things that we have to</p> <p>12 remember in these depositions is that all that really</p> <p>13 matters is what the court reporter writes down, so if</p> <p>14 you and I were just having a conversation, a lot of</p> <p>15 times you would know what I'm asking before I finish my</p> <p>16 question and you might answer it, but if you can wait</p> <p>17 until my question is finished before you answer it --</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. -- that will help, and also, I will try not to</p> <p>20 interrupt you when you are giving an answer --</p> <p>21 A. Okay.</p> <p>22 Q. -- so your answer will get fully on the page.</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. Any time that you need to take a break --</p> <p>25 A. Okay.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 A. Yes. I had to go over to the driver's license</p> <p>2 place.</p> <p>3 Q. About how old were you when you did that?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>5 Q. And do you still have a Texas state ID card?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Is it now expired?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>9 Q. Approximately, when did your Texas state ID</p> <p>10 card expire?</p> <p>11 A. I can't remember, sir.</p> <p>12 Q. Have you ever voted in an election?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. How many times have you voted in an election?</p> <p>15 A. Once by mail.</p> <p>16 Q. And do you know what year it was when you voted</p> <p>17 by mail in an election?</p> <p>18 A. No, sir.</p> <p>19 Q. What do you recall about the instance in which</p> <p>20 you voted by mail in an election?</p> <p>21 A. We got our ballots. We signed them and sent</p> <p>22 them back.</p> <p>23 Q. And do you know what year that was?</p> <p>24 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Have you ever voted in person in a Texas</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Q. -- please feel free to just say, "I need a</p> <p>2 break."</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. And you'll get one.</p> <p>5 A. Okay.</p> <p>6 Q. And also, if you have any difficulty</p> <p>7 understanding anything that is going on, I want you to</p> <p>8 feel free to --</p> <p>9 A. Okay.</p> <p>10 Q. -- consult your attorney, and your mother is</p> <p>11 present here, and I'm fine with that on behalf of</p> <p>12 the --</p> <p>13 A. Okay.</p> <p>14 Q. -- Attorney General and the State Defendants in</p> <p>15 this case.</p> <p>16 A. Okay.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. What was your date of birth?</p> <p>18 A. 10-30-87.</p> <p>19 Q. And are we currently in your home in Mercedes,</p> <p>20 Texas?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>22 Q. Have you lived here all your life?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you recall when you first got a Texas state</p> <p>25 ID?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 election?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. How many times have you voted in person?</p> <p>4 A. Once.</p> <p>5 Q. What year was it when you voted in person in an</p> <p>6 election?</p> <p>7 A. It was this year.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. This year is 2023. Was it the last</p> <p>9 election in November '22?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. No. It was 2023.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. What do you recall about voting in the</p> <p>12 election in person?</p> <p>13 A. I had to go to a building and vote. I took my</p> <p>14 passport to vote. I didn't have my ID.</p> <p>15 Q. Where did you vote?</p> <p>16 A. In a building in Mercedes.</p> <p>17 Q. Was that a building you had been to before, or</p> <p>18 was it the first time you had been there?</p> <p>19 A. It was the first time I've been there.</p> <p>20 Q. And who went with you to vote on that occasion?</p> <p>21 A. My mom.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you have any trouble casting your ballot</p> <p>23 when you went to the polling place in Mercedes in that</p> <p>24 election?</p> <p>25 A. No. It was all done electronically.</p>

Taylor Scott

April 18, 2023
Pages 10 to 13

Page 10	Page 12
<p>1 Q. Do you recall any occasion in which you</p> <p>2 attempted to vote by mail but couldn't do so?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. When did that occur?</p> <p>5 A. In this year's election.</p> <p>6 Q. Was that in 2022 or 2023?</p> <p>7 A. 2023.</p> <p>8 Q. And what do you recall about the attempt that</p> <p>9 you made to vote by mail on that election?</p> <p>10 A. I didn't get a ballot.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you recall whether or not you sent in an</p> <p>12 application for a mail-in ballot on that occasion?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you fill out that application yourself?</p> <p>15 A. My mom did.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. Did you sign that application?</p> <p>17 A. She -- she writes for me. I can't -- I can't</p> <p>18 write.</p> <p>19 Q. And did you read that application before it was</p> <p>20 sent in?</p> <p>21 A. She read it to me.</p> <p>22 Q. And do you recall that the application required</p> <p>23 you to provide some type of identification number?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>25 Q. And what type of identification number or</p>	<p>1 A. Not very well.</p> <p>2 Q. Is it -- do you think that you read?</p> <p>3 A. Excuse me?</p> <p>4 Q. Do you read fairly well?</p> <p>5 A. Barely. I can read some words, but not many.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you -- strike that.</p> <p>7 Do you go online and read things?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you read any of the -- any material related</p> <p>10 to the voting process when you applied to vote by mail?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Are you a registered voter in Texas?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>14 Q. How long have you been a registered voter in</p> <p>15 Texas?</p> <p>16 A. I just started last year.</p> <p>17 Q. Which year was that?</p> <p>18 A. Last year.</p> <p>19 Q. Was that 2022 or 2023?</p> <p>20 A. 2023.</p> <p>21 Q. Did your mother assist you in getting</p> <p>22 registered as a voter?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Have you ever sought any assistance from anyone</p> <p>25 other than your mother in connection with the voting or</p>
Page 11	Page 13
<p>1 numbers, if any, did -- did your mother provide on your</p> <p>2 application for a mail-in ballot?</p> <p>3 A. My passport number.</p> <p>4 Q. Did she provide any other numbers?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. At the time that that attempt was made to get a</p> <p>7 mail-in ballot, did you have a Social Security number?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you know at that time that you could</p> <p>10 provide the last four digits of your Social Security</p> <p>11 number on that application?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>13 Q. Is there a reason why you or your mom did not</p> <p>14 provide the last four digits of your Social Security</p> <p>15 number on that application?</p> <p>16 A. I don't know.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you provide the number on your state ID</p> <p>18 card, even though it was expired?</p> <p>19 A. No, sir.</p> <p>20 Q. Why did you not do that?</p> <p>21 A. Because it was expired. I used my passport.</p> <p>22 Q. When I spoke with your mother earlier, she told</p> <p>23 me that you had gone to high school; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So do you read well?</p>	<p>1 registering to vote?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Is it fair to say that you've never had any</p> <p>4 contact with anybody at the State of Texas about</p> <p>5 voting?</p> <p>6 A. No, sir.</p> <p>7 Q. Is it correct that you have not had any</p> <p>8 contact, other than when you went in person, with</p> <p>9 anybody at Hidalgo County about voting?</p> <p>10 A. No, sir.</p> <p>11 MS. SNEAD: I'm going to object to the</p> <p>12 form, because I'm not sure she understands the</p> <p>13 question.</p> <p>14 MR. BRYANT: Okay.</p> <p>15 MS. SNEAD: If you can phrase it more</p> <p>16 directly.</p> <p>17 MR. BRYANT: I'll try to do that.</p> <p>18 Q. Have you ever talked in person or on the phone</p> <p>19 with anyone from the State of Texas about voting?</p> <p>20 A. My hand -- I cannot use the phone. My hand --</p> <p>21 my hands do not work, so...</p> <p>22 Q. So I assume from that that you've never talked</p> <p>23 with anybody on the phone --</p> <p>24 A. No, no.</p> <p>25 Q. Have you ever talked with anybody from the</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX Z



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In The Matter Of

La Union Del Pueblo Entero, et al.,

Plaintiffs

v

State Of Texas, et al.,

Defendants

CASE

5:21-cv-844

Date

4-27-2022

Witness

Jonathan Sherman White

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5:21-cv-844 (XR)**4/27/2022****Entero v Texas****NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS INC 888.800.9656****Jonathan Sherman White 1 (1 - 4)****1 (1 - 4)**

<p>Page 1</p> <p>1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS 3 SAN ANTONIO DIVISION</p> <p>4 LA UNION DEL PUEBLO § 5 ENTERO, ET AL., § 6 Plaintiffs, § Civil Action No. 7 VS. § 5:21-cv-844 (XR) 8 § (Consolidated Cases) 9 STATE OF TEXAS, ET AL. § 10 Defendants. § 11 *****</p> <p>12 ORAL DEPOSITION OF 13 JONATHAN SHERMAN WHITE 14 APRIL 27, 2022</p> <p>15 *****</p> <p>16 ORAL DEPOSITION OF JONATHAN SHERMAN WHITE, 17 produced as a witness at the instance of the Plaintiffs 18 and Plaintiff-Intervenors, and duly sworn, was taken in 19 the above-styled and numbered cause on the 27th day of 20 April 2022, from 9:11 a.m. to 5:31 p.m., before Caroline 21 Chapman, CSR in and for the State of Texas, reported by 22 Computerized Stenotype Machine, Computer-Assisted 23 Transcription, held at the William P. Clements Jr. State 24 Office Building, 300 West 15th Street, Hearing Room 25 1001E, Austin, Texas, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.</p>	<p>Page 3</p> <p>1 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)</p> <p>2 KATIE M. FRIEL (via videoconference) 3 Fellow, Voting Rights & Elections 4 Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law 5 120 Broadway, Suite 1750 6 New York, NY 10271 7 (646) 292-8310 Fax: (212) 463-7308 8 freilk@brennan.law.nyu.edu</p> <p>9 COUNSEL FOR THE LUPE PLAINTIFFS: 10 ELIZA SWEREN-BECKER (via videoconference) 11 Counsel, Voting Rights & Elections Program 12 Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law 13 120 Broadway, Suite 1750 14 New York, NY 10271-202 15 (646) 925-8765 Fax: (917) 597-9040 16 Eliza.sweren-becker@nyu.edu</p> <p>17 COUNSEL FOR MI FAMILIA VOTA PLAINTIFFS: 18 LAURA E. ROSENBAUM (via videoconference) 19 STOEL RIVES, LLP 20 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000 21 Portland, OR 97205 22 (503) 294-9642 23 Laura.rosenbaum@stoel.com</p> <p>24 COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT TRAVIS COUNTY CLERK REBECCA 25 GUERRERO AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOSE P. GARZA: ANTHONY "TONY" NELSON (via videoconference) Civil Litigation Division of the Travis County Attorney's Office P.O. Box 1748 Austin, TX 78767-1748 (512) 854-9513 Fax: (512) 854-4808 tony.nelson@traviscountytexas.gov</p> <p>COUNSEL FOR YVONNE RAMÓN ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS OF HIDALGO COUNTY: LEIGH ANN LEAVELL TOGNETTI (videoconference) Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office 100 East Cano, Courthouse Annex III, 1st Floor Edinburg, TX 78539 (956) 292-7609 EXT 8182 Leigh.tognetti@da.co.hidalgo.tx.us</p>
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<p>1 identifying information, or an identifier such as a DL 2 or the last four of the social. That could be an 3 obstacle to a vote harvesting crew that wishes to bypass 4 the voter. 5 And then, as I already stated, it could 6 also be an obstacle to gaining the voter's compliance, 7 because here's a stranger asking for my DL number so 8 that they can complete these documents on my behalf or 9 submit this, you know, carrier envelope on my behalf, so 10 it -- by putting the control of the interaction more in 11 the voter's hands because those are -- those are numbers 12 that the voter has access to that the harvester is less 13 likely to have access to, I think it promotes security 14 in that fashion. 15 Q. So if I, moving forward, refer to the activity 16 you described of collecting as many absentee ballots and 17 collecting and submitting ballots by mail as illegal 18 vote harvesting, will you understand what I'm referring 19 to? 20 A. Sure. And if for some reason that definition 21 needs clarifying, then I'll bring it up at that time. 22 Q. You mentioned that SB1's mail ballot 23 identification requirements would be more effective in 24 preventing some vote harvesting more so than others. 25 Are there instances you can think of where SB1's mail</p>	Page 85	<p>1 identification document. They could just ask for it, 2 and if the voter was inclined to provide it or show it 3 to them because they had that level of trust somehow 4 with a stranger or -- or a harvester maybe that they've 5 known from previous election cycles, that's possible. 6 Q. Uh-huh. 7 Do you have any personal knowledge of the 8 operative underlying facts of a case that was positively 9 resolved, so the spreadsheet we've been working on, 10 where the defendant who engaged in voter -- in a vote 11 harvesting crime filled out the voter's ballot or 12 absentee ballot by mail request in the voter's presence? 13 A. Sure. Although I would say, because this -- 14 this isn't the most up-to-date document. Some of the 15 most recent cases are the ones that are immediately 16 popping into my mind and they're not on this document 17 yet, but they have been resolved. 18 Q. They have been resolved? 19 A. And there may be ones on here as well that I 20 would have to take a look at, but most of these cases 21 focus on the -- on the -- kind of the harvesting side of 22 the process rather than the seeding or the application 23 side of the process, from what I looked through. 24 Actually, you know, I was flagging the ones that were -- 25 that were unlawful assistance interactions, and so we</p>	Page 87
<p>1 ballot identification requirements would not be 2 effective in deterring vote harvesting? 3 A. The primary scenario I can think of is where a 4 vote harvesting crew already has enough information 5 about the voters that they possess those identifying 6 numbers that have to be provided. 7 Q. Do you believe that SB1's mail ballot 8 identification requirements would be effective in 9 preventing vote harvesting if a defendant filled out 10 either the voter's application or mail ballot in the 11 presence of that voter? 12 MR. HUDSON: Objection, form, foundation. 13 Objection, incomplete hypothetical. 14 A. If I understand the question, I think that 15 the -- the piece that I mentioned earlier, where the 16 voter could be put off by a harvester requesting that 17 information from the voter, that could reduce the 18 likelihood of a successful vote harvesting transaction. 19 I think that would be my answer. 20 Q. And can you think of situations where a 21 perpetrator might be able to obtain an ID from the 22 person they're seeking to harvest a ballot from? 23 MR. HUDSON: Objection, incomplete 24 hypothetical. Objection, foundation. 25 A. An ID number or an actual -- actual</p>	Page 86	<p>1 probably do have some application fraud situations here. 2 But a majority -- I would say a majority of the 3 application violation cases do involve completing an 4 application in the presence of the voter. 5 Q. The majority involve completing an application 6 in the presence of the voter? 7 A. Most of it happens in the presence of the 8 voter. And I think the reason for that is because 9 eventually they have to go back to the voter for the 10 ballot, and so it's helpful to have that prior 11 interaction with the voter. It's helpful to get -- it's 12 easy to get an actual signature from the voter for an 13 application, because I'm just helping you get a mail 14 ballot. 15 Q. Right. 16 A. Now, when you go to the mail ballot, that's 17 where the skill comes in. 18 Q. So in most of these vote harvesting schemes, 19 the harvesters are trying to build some relationship 20 with the people they're targeting? 21 A. I would say they're trying to -- trying to 22 establish some level of trust or confidence with that -- 23 with that voter. If they're doing it well, they are. 24 Q. And in those instances, is it possible that 25 they could ask the voter for their identification number</p>	Page 88

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<p>1 or have the voter fill out their own identification 2 number? 3 A. That's right. Absolutely. 4 MS. PAIKOWSKY: If it's okay, can I take a 5 five-minute break? 6 A. Sure. 7 MR. HUDSON: No objection. 8 (Lunch recess.) 9 Q. (By Ms. Paikowsky) Mr. White, I'm going to go 10 back to asking questions about SB1's mail ballot 11 identification provisions. Without SB1's mail ballot 12 identification provisions, would your office have other 13 means of detecting vote harvesting? 14 MR. HUDSON: Object to the extent that 15 that would encroach on investigator privilege, and 16 remind you of the stipulation concerning the running 17 objection. Just instruct the witness, to the extent 18 that that would encroach on methods of investigation or 19 practices, I'll instruct you not to answer. 20 A. Yeah. Without going into our mental 21 impressions and our investigative practices, I guess I 22 could say we have prosecuted vote harvesting cases in 23 the past. 24 Q. And this, again, is not seeking specific 25 information about any investigation, but do you have --</p>	Page 89	<p>1 A. This specific version, I'm not 100 percent 2 sure, but -- I couldn't say for sure. 3 Q. What are instances where you presented some 4 version of this slide show? 5 A. The one I recall is -- would be the Secretary 6 of State's annual elections conference for elections 7 administrators. 8 Q. And in that conference, who are you presenting 9 this slide show to? 10 A. Elections officials. 11 Q. What is the purpose of giving this presentation 12 to election officials? 13 A. To inform them about election integrity efforts 14 and enforcement and to give them some information on 15 what they can look for in terms of detecting election 16 fraud and how to report it. 17 Q. If you wouldn't mind turning to Bates 18 No. 054641. 19 A. Okay. 20 Q. Can you describe this slide? 21 A. So this slide is intended to show some examples 22 or representations of examples of mail ballot 23 application activity that might be associated with -- 24 with fraud or vote harvesting operations. 25 Q. Does this slide show tools that your office</p>	Page 91
<p>1 does your office have methods by which you would detect 2 potential illegal vote harvesting? 3 MR. HUDSON: Same objections. 4 A. We have -- 5 MR. HUDSON: Same instruction. 6 A. We have other methods. 7 Q. All right. I'm going to show you a document 8 that we can mark Exhibit 5. 9 (Exhibit 5 marked.) 10 MS. PERALES: What are you marking? You 11 tell me. This is 5? 12 MS. PAIKOWSKY: This is 5. 13 Q. (By Ms. Paikowsky) Do you recognize this 14 document? Sorry, and I should say this is marked 15 State -- Bates No. State 05462. 16 A. Yes, I believe I do. 17 Q. And what is this document? 18 A. It is a PowerPoint file including some 19 information about election integrity at the Attorney 20 General's Office. 21 Q. Who created this PowerPoint? 22 A. I guess a collaboration involving myself and 23 some other members of our team, I'm not sure exactly 24 who. 25 Q. What has the slide show been used for?</p>	Page 90	<p>1 uses to detect vote harvesting and impersonations? 2 A. The intent was to show elections administrators 3 items that they might detect, and if looking -- if 4 looked into further might find evidence of fraud that 5 they would report to our office. 6 Q. So is it fair to say that the examples you see 7 here might give your office or others cause to 8 investigate potential absentee ballot by mail fraud? 9 A. They might if we received a complaint with this 10 type of information inside of it. 11 Q. Have there been instances -- again, not going 12 into privileged information about any specific 13 investigation -- have there been instances in the past 14 where your office has received a complaint that includes 15 an example that you -- similar to those that you've 16 provided here to detect a vote harvesting? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. To your knowledge, will your office continue to 19 rely on this tool to detect vote harvesting? 20 A. We'll continue to rely on complaints that have 21 credible information about election fraud. 22 Q. And the kinds of evidence that you might 23 consider credible evidence warranting an investigation 24 would be -- would include what's provided on this slide 25 show?</p>	Page 92

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<p>Page 213</p> <p>1 or some other polling place, and without respect to</p> <p>2 whether the food is being offered as an inducement to</p> <p>3 vote, but just having a barbecue set up, chicken plates</p> <p>4 on the lawn of the county courthouse, outside the</p> <p>5 electioneering zone does not violate Texas law, right?</p> <p>6 MR. HUDSON: Objection, form, incomplete</p> <p>7 hypothetical. Objection, asked and answered.</p> <p>8 Objection, foundation. Go ahead.</p> <p>9 A. I -- yeah, I mean, I might miss something, but,</p> <p>10 you know, absent -- absent some facts that actually</p> <p>11 indicate an offense under the Election Code or some</p> <p>12 other code, no, I mean people can gather and have food.</p> <p>13 Q. And you mentioned that the chicken plate is a</p> <p>14 phenomenon of South Texas. Is that what you've heard?</p> <p>15 A. That's what I've heard.</p> <p>16 Q. Are you aware that campaigns set up barbecues</p> <p>17 and tents and lawn chairs and hand out food to people in</p> <p>18 other parts of Texas besides South Texas?</p> <p>19 A. That wouldn't surprise me to hear that. I just</p> <p>20 haven't heard a lot of those stories.</p> <p>21 Q. What percent of the cases that you have</p> <p>22 prosecuted of voter assistance fraud have involved Anglo</p> <p>23 defendants versus non Anglo defendants?</p> <p>24 A. No idea.</p> <p>25 Q. Have you ever seen an instance where a voter</p>	<p>Page 215</p> <p>1 voting for other people, basically?</p> <p>2 A. Sure. Well, the one that comes to mind</p> <p>3 immediately is the one associated with the victim's</p> <p>4 assistance coordinator of Omar Escobar, whose vote</p> <p>5 harvesting operation caught up a deceased voter who had</p> <p>6 been -- who had passed away nine years earlier, and</p> <p>7 applied for a mail ballot for that voter, and that mail</p> <p>8 ballot got voted. The issue in the case was actually</p> <p>9 pending that offense to the specific person, and we</p> <p>10 ultimately did not obtain that conviction against</p> <p>11 Ms. Garza in that case.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you charge her? Did you go to court?</p> <p>13 A. We did.</p> <p>14 Q. Was she acquitted?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. The charges were dropped?</p> <p>17 A. The charges were dropped.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Do you have any sense of the relative</p> <p>19 proportion of fraud that occurs by family members voting</p> <p>20 for other family members versus one of these vote</p> <p>21 harvesting operations that you've identified in your</p> <p>22 chart?</p> <p>23 A. I have a very general sense of it based on just</p> <p>24 a cumulative 14 years of dealing with cases.</p> <p>25 Q. And what is your sense?</p>
<p>Page 214</p> <p>1 cast a ballot for a family member who was ineligible</p> <p>2 because the family member was dead?</p> <p>3 A. I'm trying to think of whether I have any of</p> <p>4 those cases on the resolved prosecutions spreadsheet.</p> <p>5 But I -- I could say I have seen that scenario, but I</p> <p>6 would be limited to talking about the facts of those</p> <p>7 scenarios unless they've been resolved prosecutions.</p> <p>8 Q. Would the answer be the same if I asked you if</p> <p>9 you've ever seen instances where a voter cast the ballot</p> <p>10 for a family member who was ineligible because the</p> <p>11 family member was no longer a resident of the</p> <p>12 jurisdiction?</p> <p>13 A. We've had lots of residency cases, but I don't</p> <p>14 remember one where a vote was cast for a family member.</p> <p>15 Q. You've never seen, for example, parents vote a</p> <p>16 mail ballot for a child who's in college but that child</p> <p>17 is already gone and voting on their own wherever they</p> <p>18 went?</p> <p>19 A. I don't recall the fact of the family member</p> <p>20 voting another family member's ballot who had, you know,</p> <p>21 vacated the residency or moved their residency.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you give me any other examples of a voter</p> <p>23 casting a ballot for another voter who is ineligible</p> <p>24 either because of felony convictions, deceased, absent,</p> <p>25 no longer a resident? Any other examples of people</p>	<p>Page 216</p> <p>1 A. The exception to the rule.</p> <p>2 Q. What would be fair to say, also, though, that</p> <p>3 you are less likely to learn of an instance in which a</p> <p>4 family member votes for another family member because</p> <p>5 it's isolated and there are fewer people to report it?</p> <p>6 A. I would say we're probably equally likely to</p> <p>7 learn of it if the voter is deceased, for example,</p> <p>8 because there are ways that gets flagged by the system.</p> <p>9 If it's a -- we might -- anytime a voter is aware that</p> <p>10 their ballot has been taken and voted against their will</p> <p>11 or they show up to vote in person to vote but they're</p> <p>12 told, "No, you've already voted by mail," or something</p> <p>13 like that, it's fairly likely that that could get</p> <p>14 reported.</p> <p>15 So I think I agree with the premise that</p> <p>16 it is probably more likely in a number of situations for</p> <p>17 a vote harvesting operation to be reported than a family</p> <p>18 member. It's also not across the board, and there are</p> <p>19 other factors in a vote harvesting operation that make</p> <p>20 it extremely unlikely for those offenses to be reported,</p> <p>21 as well, such as the fact that if it's done correctly,</p> <p>22 vote harvesting is invisible to the voter. "Someone</p> <p>23 stopped by to help me with my ballot," and as far as the</p> <p>24 voter knows, they voted exactly the way the voter wanted</p> <p>25 them to vote, because I asked you, "Who would you like</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 217</p> <p>1 to vote for for this race?" And I may or may not 2 mention the down ballot races, which I fill in for the 3 people that I'm actually working for, because I don't 4 care about who's up ballot when I'm vote harvesting. I 5 care about local elections that I'm getting paid for. 6 So, you know, done properly, vote 7 harvesting is invisible to the voter, and unless there's 8 a situation where something has been just completely -- 9 you know, without the voter's knowledge or consent, 10 there has been an application for a mail ballot and they 11 are planning on voting in person and find out that, 12 "Wait a second. No, I already voted by mail? No, I 13 don't." That's going to get reported a lot of the time, 14 you know. So I agree and -- and would disagree or 15 distinguish -- 16 Q. Uh-huh. 17 A. -- on other grounds. 18 Q. Is it also the case that if a voter assister, a 19 mail ballot voter assister is doing everything the way 20 that they are supposed to do, that the experience is 21 similarly seamless for the voter, who understands that 22 the assister is filling out according to their wishes 23 and helping them with the ballot and in a completely 24 appropriate way. The voter would similarly have a 25 seamless and non-troubling experience with that?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 219</p> <p>1 MS. PERALES: Yes. 2 Q. Okay. We're back on the record. I was -- and 3 I'm also checking -- okay. I was asking you some 4 questions about the attorney-client relationship. 5 Look, it's the end. You can see right 6 here, there's nothing -- there's nothing down below, 7 so -- 8 MR. HUDSON: You can't sweet talk him into 9 answering your question. 10 THE WITNESS: That's exciting. 11 MR. HUDSON: For purposes of the record, 12 we're all laughing. I know this isn't being recorded, 13 but I want to make it very clear that we're all 14 chuckling about that one. 15 MS. PERALES: Yes, it's all in good humor. 16 And I've been foiled by Mr. Hudson and my charm 17 offensive. 18 Q. (By Ms. Perales) So I do have some questions 19 for you about the attorney-client privilege, which is, 20 is there a difference, in your mind, in terms of whether 21 you've formed an attorney-client relationship with a 22 legislator or whether you are giving fact information -- 23 for example, like the number of prosecutions or what a 24 prosecution was about -- versus advising them on 25 something like the interpretation of statutory language?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 218</p> <p>1 A. Yeah. And I would say it's more likely that 2 the voter would have a bad experience when the vote 3 harvester is doing the wrong thing, but, yeah, I think 4 that that's the challenging -- that's the challenge of 5 investigating mail ballot fraud and proving it after the 6 fact, is that, done correctly, it may look to the voter 7 just like it's done appropriately. 8 Q. I'm going to ask you no more questions about 9 your testimony. 10 Is it -- is it your contention that when 11 you are advising a legislator during the legislative 12 process about facts related to voter fraud, that you 13 have an attorney-client relationship with the 14 legislator? 15 MR. HUDSON: I'm going to object to the 16 extent that that would encourage attorney-client 17 privilege between me and my client, or attorney work 18 product, or legislative privilege. To the extent that 19 you can answer that without revealing any 20 attorney-client privilege or any other privileges, 21 you're free to do so. Otherwise, I'm instructing you 22 not to answer. 23 A. I don't know that I can. 24 THE REPORTER: Can we take a short break? 25 (Brief recess.)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 220</p> <p>1 Do you draw a distinction there at all? 2 MR. HUDSON: I'm going to object. That's 3 an improper contention. Mr. White is here as a fact 4 witness, not to give legal opinions about 5 attorney-client, attorney work product. We also have a 6 stipulation on the record. With that, I'll instruct you 7 not to answer to the extent that your answer would 8 encroach on any stipulated privileges. To the extent 9 that you can answer, you're free to do so. 10 A. I don't -- I don't know that I can. 11 Q. Okay. Well, that was -- that is me kind of 12 getting closer to what I really want to ask you about, 13 which is discussions that you've had with legislators 14 that you consider not privileged by the attorney-client 15 privilege. Not every discussion you've ever had with a 16 legislator can be understood to be attorney-client 17 privileged. Would you agree with me on that? 18 A. Certainly not questions that I was asked at a 19 legislative committee hearing. Things like that would 20 be -- would be covered, I would agree. 21 Q. So for the purpose of the record, are you 22 asserting that any private conversation you would have 23 had with a legislator, regardless of the content, would 24 be privileged as attorney-client privilege? 25 MR. HUDSON: Same objections.</p>

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

§
§
§
§
§
§
§

Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX AA

Transcript of the Testimony of
Jonathan White

Date:

May 05, 2022

Case:

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO vs STATE OF TEXAS

Jonathan White

May 05, 2022

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
 SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

3 LA UNION DEL PUEBLO)
 4 ENTERO, et al,)
)
 Plaintiffs,)
 5) CIVIL ACTION
 6 VS.)
) NO.: 5:21-cv-844(XR)
 7 STATE OF TEXAS, et al,) (Consolidated Cases)
)
 Defendants.)
 8)

9 -----
 10 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF

11 JONATHAN WHITE

12 Designated Representative for the Office of the Texas

13 Attorney General

14 MAY 5, 2022

15 -----
 16 ORAL DEPOSITION OF JONATHAN WHITE, produced as a

17 witness at the instance of the DEFENDANTS, and duly
 18 sworn, was taken in the above-styled and numbered cause
 19 on May 5, 2022, from 10:02 a.m. to 4:06 p.m. before Miah
 20 Parson, CSR in and for the State of Texas, reported by
 21 oral stenography, at the Offices of the Attorney General
 22 300 W. 15th Street Austin, Texas 78701, pursuant to the
 23 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the provisions
 24 stated on the record or attached hereto.
 25

Jonathan White

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 and incomplete hypothetical.</p> <p>2 A. I don't have a position on that very specific</p> <p>3 scenario to share. I can say that we not entered into</p> <p>4 one of those agreements historically.</p> <p>5 Q. Thank you. That was my next question.</p> <p>6 A. I knew it was.</p> <p>7 Q. So if we could turn back to Exhibit No. 5</p> <p>8 which was Chapter 273 of the election code. I'd like to</p> <p>9 go to 273.022 which is also on Page 2 and I'll just read</p> <p>10 it out slowly. Title is cooperation with local</p> <p>11 prosecutor. The attorney general may direct the county</p> <p>12 or district attorney serving the county in which the</p> <p>13 offense is to be prosecuted to prosecute an offense that</p> <p>14 the attorney general is authorized to prosecute under</p> <p>15 Section 273.021 or to assist the attorney general in the</p> <p>16 prosecution. Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 Q. Has the OAG ever used this authority to direct</p> <p>19 a county prosecutor to prosecute an offense without the</p> <p>20 OAG's involvement?</p> <p>21 A. Not to my recollection.</p> <p>22 Q. Has the OAG ever used this authority to direct</p> <p>23 a county prosecutor to assist the OAG in a prosecution?</p> <p>24 A. I think my answer would be the same as it was</p> <p>25 to your similar question under Section 273.002 to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 privilege, similar processes privilege, to the extent</p> <p>2 you can respond without encroaching on those privileges,</p> <p>3 you may do. Otherwise I'm instructing you not to</p> <p>4 answer.</p> <p>5 A. I know way of knowing if the attorney general</p> <p>6 would ever use it. We have never used it in the past</p> <p>7 and as I previously testified here and before the</p> <p>8 legislature is we always used a soft touch and a</p> <p>9 cooperative approach with local prosecutors. We'd never</p> <p>10 desired to step on a local prosecutor's toes or tried to</p> <p>11 force them to do anything or be involved in anything</p> <p>12 that they didn't want to be.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Thank you. So handing you what I've</p> <p>14 marked as Exhibit 8, which is a copy of SB1 enrolled.</p> <p>15 Just confirm that for me.</p> <p>16 (Exhibit No. 8 marked.)</p> <p>17 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 MR. HUDSON: In the interest of short</p> <p>19 circuiting out objections on the document itself as he's</p> <p>20 asking questions. Can you verify where you got it from</p> <p>21 and the reason I ask that is, is there's an actual</p> <p>22 signed copy on the Secretary of States website. I don't</p> <p>23 know if this is the final enrolled copy or not. Is</p> <p>24 there any chance I can get you to clarify that?</p> <p>25 Q. (BY MR. DOLLING) I cannot remember exactly what</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 extent that we've ever done this we have never directed</p> <p>2 a district attorney to prosecute or assist. It's</p> <p>3 possible that we may have mentioned this provision and</p> <p>4 now refreshing my recollection that there are separate</p> <p>5 provisions for investigations and prosecution, I'm not</p> <p>6 sure which is which, but if we ever used it would have</p> <p>7 been the same circumstances I described before as it</p> <p>8 would have been a soft touch. It would have been a</p> <p>9 request that we would not have pushed without agreement</p> <p>10 of the district attorney. And at most it would have</p> <p>11 been a reference to a code section, but never a</p> <p>12 mandatory directive.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. And so I guess that means that the OAG</p> <p>14 has never utilized this provision against a county</p> <p>15 prosecutor's wishes?</p> <p>16 A. Exactly. Not -- not used it per se, but it</p> <p>17 could have been referenced with regards to a request.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. It was not, you know, a directive or mandatory</p> <p>20 in nature.</p> <p>21 Q. Would the OAG ever use this authority if a</p> <p>22 county prosecutor did not want to prosecute or assist</p> <p>23 with the -- in the -- the prosecution?</p> <p>24 MR. HUDSON: Object as to attorney/client</p> <p>25 privilege, work product doctrine, investigative</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 the website is called, but it's the legislative look up</p> <p>2 that's provided by the state on the capital website or</p> <p>3 whatever it is.</p> <p>4 MR. HUDSON: Thank you.</p> <p>5 Q. (BY MR. DOLLING) So, Mr. White, do you</p> <p>6 understand that when text is struck through it means</p> <p>7 that SB1 removed that text from the law?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>9 Q. And when text is underlined it means that the</p> <p>10 text was added by --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And then if we turn to Page 75</p> <p>13 Section 10 -- oh sorry. Wait for you to get there.</p> <p>14 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>15 Q. It says, Section 10.04 says, this act takes</p> <p>16 effect on the 91st day after the last day of the</p> <p>17 legislative session; is that correct?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>19 Q. And would you agree with me that that means</p> <p>20 that SB1 took effect on December 2nd, 2021?</p> <p>21 A. Sounds correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And so when I refer to the effective date of</p> <p>23 SB1, I'm referring to December 2nd, 2021?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>25 Q. So can we turn to Section 2.04 which is I think</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 receive specific to their work on violation of election 2 laws of Texas? 3 A. I generally provide training to my group on the 4 election laws. I'm not aware of any source such as 5 TDCAA, any source that provides election specific 6 training to prosecutors. 7 Q. And those trainings that you provide to the 8 investigators within Election Integrity Unit do you 9 sometimes use power points? 10 A. I don't. They're generally one on one. 11 Q. Are there any written materials that are 12 provided as training materials to those investigators? 13 A. No, I don't believe. 14 Q. You testified that the Election Integrity 15 Division was stood up as an independent division because 16 the Election Integrity issues are so complex or at least 17 that's one of the reasons; is that correct? 18 A. It's a specialized field. 19 Q. Would you recall whether you had described it as 20 complex before? 21 A. They are complex cases. 22 Q. And I think you then -- explaining the term 23 complex to Mr. Dolling said that voting takes place in a 24 block box. Do you recall that? 25 A. I do recall that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 A. Certainly. 2 Q. And you testified a lot election security is on 3 the honor system. Do you call testifying to that? 4 A. Yes, ma'am. 5 Q. What do you mean by that? 6 A. If I check the box that's on a voter 7 registration application and affirm and swear that I'm 8 eligible to vote the system essentially in the past has 9 taken people at their word and register them to vote 10 vote and let them vote when they come to the pole and 11 let's the check in. So voting in that sense in terms of 12 eligibility has been primarily on the honor system. 13 Q. And there are other kinds of government 14 benefit's or processes that operate on the honor system 15 as well, correct? 16 MR. HUDSON: Objection; form. Foundation. 17 A. I sort of stay in my lane of Election Integrity 18 you may be right. 19 Q. (BY MS. OLSON) So you simply don't know if 20 there are other torts, for example, Social Security 21 applications that might operate on the honor system. 22 MR. HUDSON: Objection; form. Foundation 23 Objection. Outside of the scope. 24 A. I think what you're saying may be true. I 25 don't have enough experience with the system to know</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 Q. What do you mean by voting takes place in a 2 black box? 3 A. Well, what I testified in terms of the secrecy 4 of the ballot provides a certain shroud around the 5 voting process that's protected. We generally don't 6 have or didn't used to have cameras in the polling place 7 particularly with the mail balloting process. Mail 8 ballots operate in an uncontrolled environment. 9 Someone's home, there's no election officials around. 10 So there -- there's quite a bit of the process that is 11 not really outfitted with a whole lot of security 12 features at least historically speaking. 13 Q. That's not any different from some other kind 14 of fraud, correct? 15 A. I think it might be. 16 Q. Well, for example, if you had a caregiver who's 17 taking care of another person some reason and has their 18 power of attorney that person would have the ability to 19 embezzle funds or take funds with really hardly any 20 oversight, correct? 21 A. Correct. Particularly if that person had 22 dementia or something like that that might be very 23 similar to what we see. 24 Q. So there's other similar kinds of investment 25 challenges and other kind of criminal activity, correct?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p> <p>1 where the gaps are and how easy they are to fit through. 2 Q. (BY MS. OLSON) And so it may be that the 3 election security being on the honor system is no 4 different than in a lot of other circumstances where 5 conduct is on the honor system? 6 MR. HUDSON: Same objections. 7 A. It sounds like -- it sounds like the examples 8 that your giving may be similar examples that may be 9 investigated and prosecuted federally, but maybe not on 10 a state level on some of those. 11 Q. (BY MS. OLSON) Have you ever prosecuted any 12 benefit fraud cases on the state level? 13 A. I haven't. 14 Q. And so it might be the same on the state level 15 someone filled out a form indicating that they're 16 eligible for some sort of state benefit that also might 17 be done on the honor system, correct? 18 MR. HUDSON: Same objections. 19 A. I haven't heard of state prosecutions for 20 benefits fraud. 21 Q. (BY MS. OLSON) So you just don't have any 22 knowledge one way or the other whether that would be an 23 appropriate example or appropriately similar to being 24 something that's on the honor system similar to election 25 security?</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p> <p>1 A. Correct I haven't really seen those cases in 2 14 years. 3 Q. You indicated that there were also complexities 4 in the prosecution of election law cases; is that 5 correct? 6 A. Yes, ma'am. 7 Q. And I think you talked about how there were 8 often times in a matter that was investigated there 9 could be hundred of ballots affected, for example, 10 correct? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. And that the conviction stage you typically 13 didn't hold that number because you couldn't get every 14 witness every voter and they may not be able to identify 15 the person who came and got the ballot from them is that 16 a fair summary of what you testified to before? 17 A. I think so more or less. 18 Q. And some of your cases have been resolved by a 19 plea agreement; is that correct? 20 A. Yes, ma'am. 21 Q. And that doesn't require any witness to take 22 the stand? 23 A. That's correct. 24 Q. And what has been the largest number of 25 harvested ballots in a case of conviction whether by</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p> <p>1 credible allegations of a violation of the election 2 code. Do you recall that question? 3 A. Yes, I believe I do. 4 Q. And I think your answer was yes that the policy 5 of the office of the attorney general to investigate all 6 credible allegations; is that right? 7 MR. HUDSON: Objection; form. Foundation 8 objection. Remind you the stipulation concerning his 9 presentation on responding to that tweet. 10 MS. OLSON: Well, with respect to your 11 objection, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Dollings question that I 12 repeated back was asked in a much earlier portion of the 13 deposition. 14 Q. So do you recall that prior to being asked 15 about the tweet, do you recall Mr. Dollig's question, is 16 it fair to say that the office of the Attorney General 17 has a policy of investigating all credible allegations 18 of a violation of the election code? 19 A. I do remember that question. 20 Q. And do you recall what your answer was? 21 A. I think I do. 22 Q. And what was your answer? 23 A. I think I answered that, I was not prepared to 24 make a policy statement by the Attorney General's office 25 on that specific language, but that our practice in the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p> <p>1 trial or by plea? 2 A. And do you mean. 3 Q. For a single Defendant what is the -- based on 4 your knowledge of these cases, what is the highest 5 number of ballots that someone has plead guilty to or 6 been convicted of harvesting? 7 A. I don't know that off the top of my head, but 8 it would probably be a small number. 9 Q. Even if it were a conviction by way of a plea 10 agreement? 11 A. Correct. Normally. Normally that's how plea 12 agreements work. 13 Q. Is it fair to say when you say normally that's 14 how plea agreements work, what do you mean? 15 A. One of the primary negotiation terms in a plea 16 would be to get the number of counts down to one that's 17 what a defense attorney would be looking to get the 18 number of offenses the Defendant is pleading guilty to 19 to down to one. And usually a lower level of offense. 20 Q. But then that's all they're convicted of, 21 correct? 22 A. That's correct. 23 Q. I think, Mr. Dolling asked you the question, 24 his question was, is it fair to say that the office of 25 the attorney general has a policy of investigating all</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p> <p>1 Election Integrity Division is to or Election Integrity 2 Unit evaluates every credible complaint, then determines 3 whether to proceed with an investigation and that we do 4 not blanket, exclude any specific type of case we don't 5 have a standing policy that we actually filter out 6 cases. 7 Q. And I think the term credible allegations was 8 actually Mr. Dolling's term, but is there a phrase where 9 a standard practice is used by the Election Integrity 10 unit to assess whether somethings a credible allegation? 11 MR. HUDSON: Objection; form. 12 Argumentative. 13 A. I don't believe there's a defined standard for 14 what credible is. 15 Q. (BY MS. OLSON) And, for example, I'll tell you 16 that in some prosecutors offices or some investigating 17 officers the standard is if the facts as alleged would 18 make out a violation of the statute they will initiate 19 an investigation. So is there anything like that a 20 standard that is used when reviewing and complaint a 21 standard that is used by the Election Integrity Unit to 22 determine whether or not it's going to move forward on 23 investigation? 24 A. Not as such that's a very baseline standard. 25 We would have that standard in place because if a</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX BB

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

DECLARATION OF JONATHAN WHITE

I, Jonathan White, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, am executing this declaration as part of my assigned duties and responsibilities. I declare under penalty of perjury that the facts stated below are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge and belief.

1. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and otherwise competent to make this Declaration. The evidence set out in the foregoing Declaration is based on my personal knowledge.
2. I am the former Division Chief of the Election Integrity Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas and submit this Declaration in support of the State's Motion for Summary Judgment in the above-captioned case.
3. I have been involved in election fraud prosecutions as some portion of my work since I started at the Attorney General's office 15 years ago in the White Collar Crime and Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Prosecutions Division. Through the years, our election caseload expanded, resulting in the creation of an Election Fraud Section, and ultimately the Election Integrity Division. In that time, I have reviewed hundreds of investigations, and handled approximately 100 prosecutions, many of which were complex, involving multiple, if not dozens, of election offenses.
4. The Election Integrity Division receives complaints about potential election fraud forwarded primarily from the Secretary of State's office. Our investigators then determine whether the facts support an allegation of fraud, and, if warranted, the Election Integrity Division prosecutes the offenses or assists counties in prosecuting the offenses. This prosecution role has evolved somewhat since the end of 2022.

5. During my tenure as Division Chief of the Election Integrity Division, I became familiar with the administration and operations of Texas elections, including the tasks, practices, and responsibilities that local Texas election authorities must fulfill; and the laws and regulations with which local election authorities must comply to plan, coordinate, manage, and execute a successful election.
6. During my tenure as Division Chief of the Election Integrity Division, I investigated and prosecuted a variety of offenses related to voter fraud, including but not limited to ballot harvesting, illegal voting, and illegal ballot assistance. Based on that experience, I believe that the ID requirement of SB1 with regard to applications for ballots by mail and mail-in ballots is both reasonably calculated and necessary to eliminate several common types of voter fraud. *See* Tex. Elec. Code §§ 84.002(1-a); 86.001(f); Section 87.041(b)(8).
7. In my investigations and prosecutions, by far the most common type of voter fraud is related to mail-in ballots. There are three main types of election violations: mail-in ballot fraud, illegal voting, and voter assistance fraud. Mail-in ballot fraud accounts for roughly 2/3 of the offenses we prosecute. Around 1/4 deal with illegal voting, and around 1/5 deal with voter assistance. These categories may overlap within the same case. In my experience, the prevalence of mail ballot fraud is attributable to the fact that voting by mail lacks the security mechanisms that are inherent facets of in-person voting.
8. The central feature of both mail ballot fraud and voter assistance fraud schemes is a person with a political agenda getting between a voter and their ballot. With mail ballots, a vote harvester travels in person to wherever the voter is located, in a nursing home, for example, or at the voter's home, and attempts to ensure that the ballot is voted for the candidate or group of candidates the harvester supports. This may be achieved by actually filling the ballot out for the voter, or suggesting to the voter how they should vote during the voting process. The degree to which a campaign worker or political operative can get access to the voters ballot is directly proportional to the degree to which they can ensure that vote gets cast according to their wishes.
9. Ballots may also be diverted from the voter, without their knowledge. A bad actor may submit applications for ballot by mail fraudulently, without the voters' permission and then vote ballots on their behalf.
10. In voter assistance fraud schemes, political operatives may transport voters to the polls and assign the voter to an "assistant" who walks them through the voting process, including physically entering the votes on the voting machine. Alternatively, "assistants" may latch on to a voter at the polling location by soliciting, or by simply informing the voter that they are providing them "voting assistance" and end up either entering votes for the candidates of their choice, or influencing the voter's choice by suggestion. In each scenario, the key element is getting in-between the voter and their ballot.
11. My office has observed that in both mail-in ballot fraud and in-person voter assistance fraud, vulnerable individuals are frequently targeted. Usually, these individuals are elderly, or occasionally, may have disabilities. The person seeking to "assist" with ballots is normally a campaign worker or someone closely affiliated with a candidate or campaign.

Though I use the term “campaign worker,” vote harvesters are usually paid off book. On occasion, though, they may be listed on campaign reports as “canvassers,” “blockwalkers,” “GOTV” (get out the vote), “outreach,” or some other euphemism or title. Occasionally, the harvester or “assistant” is an actual candidate on the ballot.

12. In a vote harvesting operation, harvesters will first go through a target neighborhood/precinct and sign up as many people as possible for mail-in ballots. This process, known as the “seeding” phase, can be done by collecting actual signatures from voters, but this can also be accomplished by forging signatures, having other members of a household sign for a voter, or even by misrepresenting the nature of the document the voter is signing. If the “annual application” box is checked on the application, and it normally is, voters will receive mail ballots for the entire year – including every local election. Harvesters may alter the selections or information on applications without the knowledge of a voter, or fill them in after the fact. We have seen this practice result in voters receiving ballots against their wishes, or for the wrong political party’s primary and runoff elections. The fundamental goal is to generate as large a pool of mail ballots as possible that can be later harvested. In effect, voters are treated as a commodity, and their voices are lifted from them and reappropriated for use by a political campaign.
13. Depending on the number of votes needed to swing a targeted election, vote harvesters may resort to signing up young, able-bodied people who do not qualify for mail ballot voting. In one case, my office identified a district where close to half of the mail ballots for certain precincts were issued for disabilities. The investigation showed these individuals to be young, able-bodied voters. Typically, only 1-2% of mail ballots are issued to people with disabilities, and the rest to people over 65 or absentee voters.
14. At election time, a harvester will follow up door-to-door to collect ballots from the voters they signed up to receive mail ballots. In some parts of the state, this process is referred to as “following the mail truck” as mail ballots are delivered by the postal service. Harvesters may develop connections in the post office to get the best information possible on when mail ballots go out, or even illegally purchase lists from mail carriers of those receiving mail ballots. In this collection or “harvesting” phase, the harvester often presents themselves in an official or quasi-official capacity, or simply informs the voter that they are there to help the voter vote their ballot. The harvester will normally mark, or at least attempt to mark, the votes directly on the ballot. They may ask the voter their preferences for President, Vice-President or other up-ballot candidates, and may even honor the voter’s request, particularly if the harvester is really interested in a down-ballot race, or races, as is usually the case. Other times a harvester may verify that the voter wants to vote a “straight-ticket” for a particular party, but in a party primary election, where that instruction provides zero direction on how the ballot will actually be voted.
15. An experienced harvester may have a warm, friendly interaction with the voter, but it is unlikely the voter will have any idea how their votes were actually cast. After collecting the ballot from the voter, the harvester may leave a gift for the voter, often a trinket, but in some cases it could be an item like a scarf, fruit basket, or bag of groceries. These gifts may also be offered up front in order to lower defenses, or trigger a sense of reciprocity in the voter.

16. Since 2015, the OAG has prosecuted over 800 election offenses against 126 individuals. Approximately 343 offenses against 39 defendants pending in court were placed in jeopardy in late 2022, due to the Court of Criminal Appeals' ruling in *State v. Zena Stephens*, which declared the AG's statutorily granted authority to prosecute election cases unconstitutional.
17. All mail ballots, due to their nature of being handled and voted outside of a polling location, lack significant security mechanisms available to in-person voters. In the polling location, in-person voters have election judges and poll watchers to make sure that there is no electioneering; no harassment, pressure, or persuasion being placed on the voter to vote a certain way; that no one is marking the voter's ballot without authorization; and that the vote is actually turned in, counted, and not altered by any person. Paid operatives are not allowed to loiter in the polling place, or to collect ballots from voters and remove them from the polling place, with a promise to turn them in later on behalf of the voter. Voting not conducted in a polling location lacks these protections. There are laws prohibiting many of these bad acts, but there is no monitoring and no ability to stop them from happening. The vote-by-mail process is wide open to politically interested individuals to proliferate mail ballots to targeted precincts and then pursue those ballots to ensure they get voted according to their preferences. When compared to voting by personal appearance, voting by mail is exceptionally vulnerable to fraud, particularly from vote harvesting operations.
18. My office investigated a mayoral candidate in Carrollton, Texas, named Zul Mohamed. The investigation proved that Mohamed fraudulently filled out and submitted at least 100 applications for ballot by mail, that we know of, in the 2020 election. He did this without the consent or knowledge of a single voter, and then voted or attempted to vote the ballots. He targeted elderly voters of the highest ages who had not voted in recent elections, in order to decrease his likelihood of detection. Mohamed directed the mail ballots to be sent to a virtual mailbox he acquired under a false identity. The City of Carrollton spans three different counties, and he targeted at least Denton and Dallas counties in his scheme, which was detected and reported only by the Denton County Elections Office.
19. An operation by Denton County Sheriff's Office, assisted by our investigations unit, caught Zul in the act of picking up a box of mail ballots and transporting them to his home, where he was still in the process of creating numerous fraudulent ballot applications and submitting them to Dallas County. A significant number of the voters targeted in Dallas County were deceased, but had not yet been removed from the rolls. Dallas County Elections, acting under instructions of the Dallas County District Attorney and Commissioner's Court was uncooperative with the investigation, and declined to produce certain election records for our investigation. The elections office did, however, flag a list of fraudulent ballots we provided them with, after having already accepted and counted a number of them, which minimized some of the damage. Dallas County also declined to press charges on our completed investigation, or conduct their own; however, Zul was prosecuted by the Denton County District Attorney's Office for the dozens of fraudulent ballots he attempted to cast there. His case is currently set for trial.
20. It is not uncommon for dozens or perhaps even hundreds of mail ballots to be delivered to multi-family dwellings, residential care facilities, or other such locations. Had the Denton

County elections office not taken additional steps to investigate and verify the nature of the address the ballots were being diverted to, and then report the activity, I have no doubt that hundreds of votes would have been fraudulently cast and counted in both Denton and Dallas Counties. I am confident that Dallas County would have accepted and counted each fraudulent ballot it received, had our investigation not intervened, instead of the relatively small number that was counted before we intervened.

21. Because Zul forged voters' signatures when requesting mail ballots, and also signed the respective ballot envelopes, signature verification did not reveal the fraud. Zul would not, however, have been able to provide the identification numbers required under a mail ballot ID number requirement, either on the applications or ballot envelopes. This security measure would have prevented this fraud scheme entirely, and would have stopped it early, at the application phase.
22. Although Zul was ultimately caught in the act, and likely hundreds of fraudulent votes prevented, he was still able to successfully cast fraudulent ballots in the election. Once processed and removed from their envelopes, ballots are entirely anonymous and untraceable. They cannot be identified for removal from counting. Additionally, once a voter requests a mail ballot, they are unable to vote at a polling place without surrendering their mail ballot or going to election headquarters to file paperwork, including a sworn affidavit. Most voters will not complete this process, but even if they are willing and able, they will still not be able to vote if the mail ballot has already been processed at the elections office. Simply put, mail ballot fraud disenfranchises voters by making it impossible for them to cast their vote. Voters' voices are stolen and supplanted by those driven to make their voices heard louder than everyone else's.
23. Had Texas utilized an ID number requirement, election officials would not have accepted the fraudulent applications for ballot by mail in the first place. No voters, either in the Zul case, or any other mail ballot fraud case, would be disenfranchised by vote harvesters who do not have or cannot gain access to the voters unique ID numbers. This is a common sense security measure.
24. Other vote harvesters illegally harvest hundreds of ballots with more subtle methods than ballot diversion. Many ballot harvesters interact directly with the voters to obtain actual signatures on applications and ballot envelopes. In these cases, fraud is far more difficult to detect. Unless an opposing candidate is aware their opponent is conducting a harvesting campaign, or discovers significant statistical anomalies in the election data, vote harvesting is likely to go undetected. Even if fraud is both detected and reported, in situations where harvesters who collect authentic-looking, or actually authentic signatures from voters, it is difficult to know whether a voter's ballot was marked or influenced by a vote harvester.
25. Investigating and prosecuting mail ballot fraud violations after the fact is difficult for a number of reasons. Inadequate detection mechanisms are in place to identify mail ballot fraud and to capture and preserve evidence of it. There are typically not eyewitnesses or video recordings to capture interactions between a harvester and a voter, or a ballot being diverted from a mailbox. Additionally, victims are often elderly and sometimes disabled, and may have diminished perception or memory of the event.

26. Perhaps most importantly, if performed correctly, fraud committed during harvesting interactions is designed to be undetectable to the voter. An experienced harvester can gain a voter's trust by leveraging ties to the community or acquaintances they have in common. A harvester may also be able to portray themselves as an election official or volunteer, with whom the voter can feel comfortable in allowing them to "assist" with or to collect a mail ballot. From there, a skilled harvester can avoid pushing a voter beyond a certain point of comfort and can settle for whatever level of influence they are able to assert over the voter's ballot. This might range from merely suggesting which candidates the voter should vote for, to physically marking the voter's ballot, to collecting a ballot—marked or unmarked, envelope sealed or unsealed—from the voter. If a voter insists on voting a ballot against the harvester's preferences, that vote can easily be reversed or cancelled by the harvester by either altering the ballot or discarding the ballot, in a worst-case scenario. The individuals we investigate and prosecute do this work not to help others, but to deliver votes.
27. A common harvesting practice, mentioned earlier, is to ask the voter whom they wish to vote for on one or two top-of-ballot candidates, and then vote the rest of the ballot without the voter's input or consent, or to simply mark the votes opposite of the voter's direction, if any is given. A harvester could theoretically go over the entire ballot with the voter if they had the time and inclination, but the only thing that matters is how the harvester actually marks the votes.
28. It was also not uncommon for our investigators to encounter voters who have been conditioned over perhaps years of vote harvesting interactions to simply hand over unmarked ballots directly to the vote harvester. While this may seem strange to outsiders, it is more understandable when one takes into consideration that some of these voters did not actually want to receive a ballot in the first place, but they signed an application when it was put in front of them by a friendly, pushy, or deceptive vote harvester.
29. Another challenge to investigators and prosecutors is that even if a voter did perceive an illegal interaction, and is willing to talk to investigators, it is common for that voter to be unable to identify who the harvester was (if they ever knew) or to recall key facts about the interaction. Given the number of times elections are conducted in even years, often just weeks or months apart, with primaries, runoffs, and local elections in rapid succession, interactions with harvesters may easily be confused or forgotten. Investigations are often conducted many months, or even a year or more after an election, given delays in reporting and investigative workload and staffing. With scant documentary evidence and the uncontrolled and unmonitored environments where mail ballot interactions take place, it is a long shot that a voter will be able to decisively remember enough detail to establish the elements of an election offense to a criminal burden of proof.
30. Organized mail ballot fraud activity is another hurdle to investigation and prosecution. When multiple people act in coordination, which is common, to divide the illegal activities among multiple players, it is more difficult to prove a case, and easy for bad actors to point to an unknown actor in the process to evade responsibility. For example, our division investigated an individual who signed as an assistant on a ballot application for a woman who had been dead for 8 years. The mail ballot was voted and counted. But when DNA on

the ballot envelope came back to an unknown actor, the illegal voting case could not be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Furthermore, the co-conspirator who signed the application as an assistant claimed that she been provided the application by an unknown individual (but likely a member of her harvesting crew), and she merely signed the document to comply with the law. Of course, she claimed no knowledge of how the deceased voter's ballot was actually cast.

31. Because mail ballots have few safeguards, fraud is perpetrated relatively easily. But it is many orders of magnitude more difficult to prove what happened, and even in cases of clear fraud, to identify the perpetrator and prove each element of an offense beyond a reasonable doubt. Our successful prosecutions represent a tiny fraction of the number of individuals involved in vote harvesting and the number of votes and voters who have been defrauded.
32. A single ballot harvester can impact dozens or hundreds of votes, depending on the industriousness and experience of the harvester. A single ballot-harvesting scheme can result in hundreds of people being disenfranchised from their right to vote. Depending on the scale of the operation, dozens of ballot harvesters may be acting in coordination. Even if one or two are caught, many others may escape detection. Even if detected, the investigation and prosecution challenges described above ensure that cases that result in successful prosecutions represent a fraction of total ballot harvesting activity.
33. Prior to SB1, one requirement intended to protect the integrity of the mail ballot was comparing the signature on the carrier envelope with the signature on the application for ballot by mail or another signature on file. While signature matching certainly provides some measure of protection against fraud, its utility is limited, and it can be circumvented relatively easily by a determined bad actor.
34. Vote harvesting methods have evolved to avoid having ballots rejected for signature mismatch. A basic workaround is simply forging both signatures. Our office observed a scheme that captured digital signatures from voters on an iPad to request a mail ballot, which was used to populate mail ballot applications which the harvesting crew printed and mailed in bulk to the elections office. These digital signatures, some of which appeared forged by the harvester, were of such low quality as to be practically useless in a signature comparison. Yet they provided the harvesting crew with the means to automatically generate mail ballot applications in future years, while bypassing the voters entirely. It also provided harvesters a template for applying a reasonably decent forgery to a ballot. Common sense legislation was passed to address this problem, requiring wet ink signatures on mail ballot applications, but harvesters have since (and had long before) operated successfully without being thwarted by the signature matching process.
35. Another problem with mail ballot safeguards is that standards are not evenly applied across counties. Some counties enforce requirements more strictly than others. For example, one Texas county used an unorthodox interpretation in its signature verification process that negated the process completely if a ballot had been assisted. In a case of non-matching signatures, if the ballot envelope had been signed by a person "assisting" a voter, the ballot board or signature verification committee was instructed to disregard the non-matching

signatures and treat the ballot as if it were “witnessed.” A “witnessed” signature is where a voter is physically unable to sign the ballot envelope due to disability, and a witness is required to sign an attestation in order to verify the ballot was cast by the voter. Assisting and witnessing are two entirely different processes under the law, and have different notations on the ballot envelope. By conflating these differences, non-matching signatures on untold numbers of assisted ballots (often an indicator of mail ballot fraud) bypassed the signature verification process and were counted.

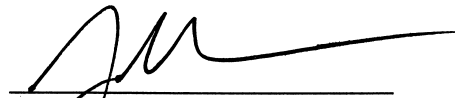
36. Another challenge in the signature verification process is inconsistency or changes in handwriting due to a voter’s age or infirmity. This issue has been highlighted by voter rights groups over the years in attempt to eliminate the requirement. A careful judge can consider the possible issues an elderly or disabled voter might develop and allow leeway for handwriting deterioration. Of course, it is relatively easy for a vote harvester to provide a low-quality signature that suggests deterioration. Recovery from a malady, resulting in improved handwriting quality, is also possible. Because of these issues, in practice, many, if not most, ballot boards will approve every signature that could conceivably be that of the voter. In most cases, a signature must clearly appear to be the handwriting of a different person it will be rejected. This tendency understandably limits the effectiveness of signature matching, which is a subjective determination, in preventing mail ballot fraud. Signature matching is useful, though certainly subjective in comparison to the requirement of an identifying number.
37. Ballot harvesting is most effective in low-turnout races and smaller jurisdictions, rather than large, statewide elections. This is because ballot harvesting is labor-intensive and is cost-effective generally when relatively low numbers of votes are required to secure a race. Larger operations are also more difficult to coordinate, and they leave more clues behind. In low-turnout races, a few votes can make the difference. Hundreds of votes can put many close primaries or local elections in play. I would estimate that least ninety percent of the vote harvesting and mail-in ballot fraud cases we investigate and prosecute occur in local elections or primary elections.
38. Some of the local elections most vulnerable to ballot harvesting are independent school districts. In some parts of the state, the school district may be a county or municipality’s biggest employer, and the ISD wields enormous influence in controlling jobs and valuable contracts. These races often have the lowest turnout of any elections, many districts opting to conduct their own elections rather than contracting through the county elections office, and historically holding them on non-uniform election days. In such elections, harvested votes can easily affect the outcome. The early voting clerk who is responsible for accepting and processing mail ballots, in an election run by the district, is appointed by the officials who run the district, who are on the ballot. The incumbent candidates handpick the people that ultimately determine whether signatures match and which ballots will be counted.
39. The Election Integrity Division investigated a primary race for county commissioner in Gregg County. In that race, a candidate lost the in-person vote by 20 percentage points, but a large vote harvesting campaign generated an abnormally large number of mail ballots, of which more than 70% were cast for the harvesting candidate. That candidate ended up winning the election by four votes. Shannon Brown, Marlena Jackson, Charlie Burns, and

DeWayne Ward were indicted and pled guilty to election fraud offenses, in a prosecution by the Gregg County District Attorney, assisted by our office. The losing candidate, who would have won the election handily, was unable to contest her election because her attorney missed a filing deadline.

40. SB1 requires a voter to provide an ID number (either a driver's license, Texas ID, election identification certificate, DPS-issued personal identification card number, or the last 4 digits of an SSN) in order to apply for and cast a ballot by mail. The very fact of adding a unique identifier to the ballot provides security in the same way that it does for other types of applications or transactions that require ID numbers – the number is not publicly known or readily available to persons besides the voter. ID requirements help to verify that a person is who they claim to be.
41. I believe the ID number requirement is a reasonable security measure to address a significant vulnerability of mail ballots, that offers voters eligible to vote by mail a far greater degree of convenience than in-person voting. It strikes an appropriate balance between election integrity and accommodation of voters who might have difficulty or require assistance voting in person.
42. Requiring the provision of an ID number helps eliminate schemes involving direct diversion of ballots. This helps narrow the field of possible vote harvesting schemes, and of those possible schemes, it makes them more difficult.
43. Having to extract a sensitive piece of personal information from a stranger changes the dynamic of a ballot harvesting interaction in a meaningful way. It also increases the likelihood of a voter getting assistance, if needed, from a family member, trusted friend, roommate, or caregiver, instead of an opportunistic or aggressive vote harvester.
44. Vote harvesters are more successful when they can minimize intrusive requests to a voter that are necessary to gain access to a ballot. Obtaining a piece of sensitive information from a stranger is an obstacle to a bad actor.
45. By way of illustration, a harvester normally approaches a voter as someone there to help them vote or mail their ballot. The initial ask is usually “do you have your ballot handy?” An experienced harvester typically offers a stamp and mailing services, to demonstrate value to the voter. An experienced harvester will likely pick up on any physical attributes of the voter that might be helpful to the harvester's cause. Eyeglasses become an invitation for the harvester to read the ballot to the voter. Some voters are more trusting by nature, others more skeptical. The helpful harvester seeks to skillfully insert themselves between the voter and their ballot, and once they mark the voter's ballot, they will fold it, and slip it into the ballot envelope, at which point they need only collect a quick signature before whisking the ballot away from the voter. However, most people know to be wary in providing sensitive personal information like social security numbers to a person they do not know well, although they will provide it readily to a family member or trusted caregiver.

46. For this reason, having an ID number requirement for mail ballots makes it more likely that people who need help with filling out or returning a ballot will get that help from someone they trust, rather than a ballot harvester who might fraudulently repurpose their vote to a predetermined candidate or slate of candidates. It also bears mention that a vast swath of absentee voters, voters 65 years and older, and even individuals with disabilities have no problems filling out ballots, ballot envelopes, providing ID numbers, and sending letters without assistance. But where assistance is needed, it should be encouraged to come from a trusted friend, family member, or caregiver.
47. An ID number requirement for mail ballots provides needed security for vulnerable mail ballots, in a manner comparable to the existing ID requirement for in-person voting. However, it is even easier to provide. A mail ballot voter does not have to produce an ID card (or include a photocopy with the mail ballot, or witness affidavit of identity, as some states require), but rather simply provide a number, from a list of options, which can be as simple as the last 4 digits of an SSN.
48. Generally speaking, it is important to realize that election fraud is extremely difficult to detect, harder to prove, and even harder to rectify after the votes are counted. The reality is that the only effective way to achieve election integrity is to have adequate measures in place to prevent fraud before the votes are cast, and in the case of mail-ballots, to implement security measures that achieve the same level of security that is in place at a polling location. The ID number requirement in SB1 is a small step in that direction.

Executed in Travis County on the 22nd day of June, 2023.



Jonathan White
Former Division Chief
Election Integrity Division
Office of the Attorney General of Texas

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX CC

J. Scott Wiedmann

July 29, 2022

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et. al.)
Plaintiff,)
v.) Civil Action No. 5:21-cv-00844-XR
GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.)
Defendant.)

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Deposition of J. SCOTT W, WIEDMANN, taken pursuant to Subpoena to
testify at Deposition, was held at the U.S. Department of Justice, 150
M Street NE, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, commencing July 29, 2022
at 9:48 A.M., on the above date, before JEANINN ALEXIS, a Stenographer
and Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia.

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 the last four digits.</p> <p>2 Is that correct?</p> <p>3 A If they have such number, yes.</p> <p>4 Q Is there anything about paragraph 6 that you</p> <p>5 believe is now inaccurate as compared to when you</p> <p>6 wrote this particular draft?</p> <p>7 A I believe paragraph 6 is accurate.</p> <p>8 Q Are there any changes you would make to</p> <p>9 paragraph 6 since the time you wrote this initial</p> <p>10 draft?</p> <p>11 A I don't believe so.</p> <p>12 Q You can put Exhibit 2 to the side, but I</p> <p>13 wouldn't put it too far.</p> <p>14 (Wiedmann Deposition Exhibit 3 marked for</p> <p>15 identification.)</p> <p>16 BY MS. HUNKER:</p> <p>17 Q Do you have Exhibit 3 in front of you?</p> <p>18 A Yes.</p> <p>19 Q And do you recognize this document?</p> <p>20 A Yes, I do.</p> <p>21 Q This is a voter registration absentee ballot</p> <p>22 request specifically known as a Federal Post Card</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 Q And do you know what happens if the voter</p> <p>2 does not check one of these boxes?</p> <p>3 A So these boxes would serve a couple</p> <p>4 purposes. One is as stated in the red box at the top,</p> <p>5 the form is intended for active duty military and</p> <p>6 their families who are absent from their voting</p> <p>7 jurisdiction or US citizens outside the United States.</p> <p>8 So if an individual submitting this form did</p> <p>9 not check one of these five boxes, it would be</p> <p>10 difficult for the local election office to determine</p> <p>11 if this person is actually an individual who is</p> <p>12 covered by Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting</p> <p>13 Act.</p> <p>14 Q So -- oh, sorry.</p> <p>15 A That's the primary reason for those boxes.</p> <p>16 Q So if an individual does not check one of</p> <p>17 these boxes, they would have their application</p> <p>18 rejected.</p> <p>19 Is that correct?</p> <p>20 A I would say it depends on the state and what</p> <p>21 their procedures are as to what to do with a Federal</p> <p>22 Post Card Application. They may not reject it</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 Application; is that correct?</p> <p>2 A It appears to be, yes.</p> <p>3 Q I will represent to you that I got this</p> <p>4 particular Federal Post Card Application from the</p> <p>5 Federal Voting Assistance Program's website.</p> <p>6 Do you have any reason to doubt on that?</p> <p>7 A I do not. I haven't read every word but I</p> <p>8 have no reason to doubt it.</p> <p>9 Q And so there are a bunch of different</p> <p>10 fields. Let's look at Section 1 first. It says, Who</p> <p>11 are you pick one. And then it has four check boxes</p> <p>12 which reads, I am on active duty in the Uniformed</p> <p>13 Services or Merchant Marines or I am an eligible</p> <p>14 spouse or dependent. Two, I am a US citizen living</p> <p>15 outside the country and I intend to return. Three, I</p> <p>16 am a US citizen living outside the country and my</p> <p>17 intent to return is uncertain. And, Four, I am a US</p> <p>18 citizen living outside the country. I have never</p> <p>19 lived in the United States.</p> <p>20 Did I read those correctly?</p> <p>21 A You did. I would characterize them as five</p> <p>22 options, but you did read them correctly.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 outright. They may put it on hold and contact the</p> <p>2 voter or they could reject it outright and send a</p> <p>3 notification to the voter. It depends on the state's</p> <p>4 procedures.</p> <p>5 Q But if -- a voter does not fill out one of</p> <p>6 these five boxes would not have their FPCA accepted.</p> <p>7 Is that right?</p> <p>8 A I can't say what a state would accept or not</p> <p>9 accept.</p> <p>10 Q But would you agree with me that certain</p> <p>11 states would require the voter either resubmit the</p> <p>12 form or provide additional information before</p> <p>13 accepting the FPCA in the event the voter did not fill</p> <p>14 out one of these five boxes?</p> <p>15 A I would agree with that statement, yes.</p> <p>16 Q And also in Section 1, we have fields for</p> <p>17 last name, first name, and middle name as well as</p> <p>18 previous names, birth date; is that correct?</p> <p>19 A Yes.</p> <p>20 Q And also in Section 1, there's a field for</p> <p>21 social security numbers; is that right?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 Q And there is also a field for driver's</p> <p>2 license or state ID numbers; is that right?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q And so the fields with social security</p> <p>5 numbers and driver's license or state ID number are on</p> <p>6 the Federal Post Card Application?</p> <p>7 Is that right?</p> <p>8 A Yes, they are.</p> <p>9 Q And you had stated before that the Federal</p> <p>10 Post Card Application did not change as a result of</p> <p>11 Senate Bill 1; correct?</p> <p>12 A That's correct.</p> <p>13 Q So the social security number field and</p> <p>14 driver's license field existed on the Federal Post</p> <p>15 Card Application independent of Senate Bill 1; is that</p> <p>16 correct?</p> <p>17 A That's correct.</p> <p>18 Q Now, you had mentioned that you do updates</p> <p>19 for the Federal Post Card Application every two years.</p> <p>20 Was the social security number field and the driver's</p> <p>21 license number field added in 2021 or did it</p> <p>22 pre-exist?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 out.</p> <p>2 Q So you don't know what percentage of voters</p> <p>3 would fill in a field for social security numbers or</p> <p>4 driver's licenses; is that right?</p> <p>5 A That is correct. I do not know.</p> <p>6 Q So you mentioned that these fields have been</p> <p>7 on the form for quite some time. Do you know why they</p> <p>8 were put on the form?</p> <p>9 A So the form is to facilitate communications</p> <p>10 between the voter and their election office so the</p> <p>11 voter can provide information necessary so they can be</p> <p>12 registered to vote and to have a ballot sent to them.</p> <p>13 So if a state -- if states require these, that's why</p> <p>14 they will be on there.</p> <p>15 Q And so the field on the Federal Post Card</p> <p>16 Application for social security number and driver's</p> <p>17 license number is to facilitate registration and</p> <p>18 absentee ballot requests with the state; is that</p> <p>19 right?</p> <p>20 A As part of the form as a whole, yes.</p> <p>21 Q And do you know what occurs if an individual</p> <p>22 does not provide their birth date on the Federal Post</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 A It pre-existed, to the best of my</p> <p>2 recollection.</p> <p>3 Q So the social security number field and the</p> <p>4 driver's license number field pre-existed on the</p> <p>5 Federal Post Card Application prior to 2021; is that</p> <p>6 right?</p> <p>7 A Yes.</p> <p>8 Q Do you know when they were added to the</p> <p>9 form?</p> <p>10 A I cannot recall them not being on the form.</p> <p>11 Q And you've been working with the Federal</p> <p>12 Voting Assistance Program since 1993; is that right?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q And since 1993, you do not recall a Federal</p> <p>15 Post Card Application that did not have a social</p> <p>16 security number or a driver's license field; is that</p> <p>17 right?</p> <p>18 A That is correct.</p> <p>19 Q In your experience, do applicants typically</p> <p>20 fill in all the fields?</p> <p>21 A I do not receive these forms so I cannot</p> <p>22 comment on what fields are filled out or not filled</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 Card Application?</p> <p>2 A I believe it will be something similar to</p> <p>3 the other check boxes in that the state would, based</p> <p>4 on the state rules, regulations, procedures, determine</p> <p>5 whether or not the form could be accepted and/or they</p> <p>6 would have to communicate with the voter for</p> <p>7 subsequent information prior to accepting the form.</p> <p>8 Q So you would agree with me that if an</p> <p>9 overseas or military voter did not provide a birth</p> <p>10 date on a Federal Post Card Application, that some</p> <p>11 states would require the voter to either resubmit the</p> <p>12 form or, in some way, communicate the information to</p> <p>13 the state; is that right, before accepting the</p> <p>14 application?</p> <p>15 A My understanding is that it is a requirement</p> <p>16 by the states, yes.</p> <p>17 Q And have you looked into how states require</p> <p>18 a military or overseas voter to cure these types of</p> <p>19 defects such as not providing a birth date on the</p> <p>20 Federal Post Card Application?</p> <p>21 A We do not have -- we do not collect and/or</p> <p>22 distribute information on the cure process for any</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 A My understanding is that upon receiving this</p> <p>2 and it being approved, meeting the states' or</p> <p>3 localities' requirements for voter registration, than,</p> <p>4 yes, all subsequent elections for federal offices that</p> <p>5 occur during that year, the absentee ballot will be</p> <p>6 sent to the voter.</p> <p>7 Q So barring a mistake on the form, the voter</p> <p>8 would only have to fill this out one time each</p> <p>9 calendar year; is that right?</p> <p>10 A As long as that individual's situation has</p> <p>11 not changed.</p> <p>12 Q That's a good clarification. Thank you.</p> <p>13 If we can go back to the first page. You</p> <p>14 see Section 2 where it says, What is your address in</p> <p>15 the US state or territory were you're registering to</p> <p>16 vote and requesting an absentee ballot.</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q Now, if a voter failed to fill out this</p> <p>19 particular section, you will agree with me that the</p> <p>20 state would require the voter to either resubmit their</p> <p>21 Federal Post Card Application or provide additional</p> <p>22 information before the application was accepted.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 A Yes, it is one avenue. It is one back up</p> <p>2 that can be used, yes.</p> <p>3 Q Look where it says, You can vote wherever</p> <p>4 you are. This is how.</p> <p>5 Do you see that?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q One, Fill out your voter information page</p> <p>8 completely and accurately. The first bullet point</p> <p>9 reads, Your US voting residence is used to determine</p> <p>10 where you are eligible to vote absentee. For military</p> <p>11 voters, it is usually the last address in your state</p> <p>12 of legal residence. For overseas citizens, it is</p> <p>13 usually the last place you lived before moving</p> <p>14 overseas. You do not need to have any current ties to</p> <p>15 this address. Do not write a post box in Section 2.</p> <p>16 Did I read this correctly?</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q And you agree with me that providing a</p> <p>19 voting residence address is required by many states</p> <p>20 for the Federal Write-In Ballot to be accepted?</p> <p>21 A I do not know to what extent states would</p> <p>22 verify all the information on this voter information</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 Is that correct?</p> <p>2 A This would be part of the information</p> <p>3 required by many states in order to correctly process</p> <p>4 the form, yes.</p> <p>5 Q We can put this document to the side.</p> <p>6 (Wiedmann Deposition Exhibit 4 marked for</p> <p>7 identification.)</p> <p>8 BY MS. HUNKER:</p> <p>9 Q This is Exhibit No. 4. Do you have the</p> <p>10 document in front of you?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q And do you recognize this document?</p> <p>13 A It looks like it is a complete Federal</p> <p>14 Write-In Absentee Ballot form.</p> <p>15 Q And I will represent to you that I took this</p> <p>16 particular form from the website of the Federal Voting</p> <p>17 Assistance Program.</p> <p>18 Do you have any reason to doubt my</p> <p>19 characterization of this document?</p> <p>20 A I do not.</p> <p>21 Q And so this acts as the backup ballot for</p> <p>22 military and overseas voters; is that correct?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 sheet that's provided.</p> <p>2 Q And you see in the second bullet point, it</p> <p>3 says, Most states allow you to provide a driver's</p> <p>4 license number or the last four digits of your social</p> <p>5 security number. New Mexico, Tennessee, and Virginia</p> <p>6 require a full social security number.</p> <p>7 Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q And so for those states, mainly New Mexico,</p> <p>10 Tennessee, and Virginia, based on this document, a</p> <p>11 voter would have to put on there their driver's</p> <p>12 license number or their full social security number in</p> <p>13 order to accurately fill out and have their Federal</p> <p>14 Write-In Absentee Ballot accepted.</p> <p>15 Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A I'm not sure if that's correct because there</p> <p>17 are states as listed up above or that are not listed</p> <p>18 up above that will accept this form as both the</p> <p>19 registration form and the absentee ballot itself.</p> <p>20 So I can't say for sure whether or not those</p> <p>21 states would reject the ballot if the voter had</p> <p>22 already gone through the registration process</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 previously.</p> <p>2 Q Okay. Would you agree with me that some</p> <p>3 states require a driver's license number, state ID</p> <p>4 number, or social security number in order to complete</p> <p>5 the -- successfully complete the Federal Write-In</p> <p>6 Absentee Ballot?</p> <p>7 A Again, I'm not sure what states, what</p> <p>8 information on this form states would use to verify</p> <p>9 the voter's identification before accepting the voter</p> <p>10 ballot portion.</p> <p>11 Q And this document is prescribed in your</p> <p>12 office; correct?</p> <p>13 A That is correct.</p> <p>14 Q And that is true also from the Federal Post</p> <p>15 Card Application?</p> <p>16 A That is correct.</p> <p>17 Q And so if we turn to page 2, you will see</p> <p>18 that it has a bunch of fields where the voter has to</p> <p>19 fill out.</p> <p>20 Is that correct?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q And like with the FPCA, Section 1 provides a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 A I can't necessarily agree with that because</p> <p>2 I don't -- again, I don't know what states would</p> <p>3 require for solely affirming the voter's identity to</p> <p>4 accept the ballot versus in a state where this might</p> <p>5 be used for registration.</p> <p>6 Q So what about the states that don't use it</p> <p>7 as a voter registration form? For those states, would</p> <p>8 you agree with me that if a voter did not check one of</p> <p>9 these boxes, that the state or states would require</p> <p>10 the voter to either resubmit the Federal Write-In</p> <p>11 Absentee Ballot or, in some way, provide the</p> <p>12 additional information?</p> <p>13 A That may be the case. I would agree that</p> <p>14 may be the case.</p> <p>15 Q And if we look at Section 1, you will see a</p> <p>16 bunch of different fields like last name; first name;</p> <p>17 middle name; suffix; previous name, if applicable; and</p> <p>18 birth date.</p> <p>19 Is that correct?</p> <p>20 A Yes.</p> <p>21 Q And then we also have a field for social</p> <p>22 security number and driver's license or state ID</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 list of five check boxes that read, I am on active</p> <p>2 duty in Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine, I am an</p> <p>3 eligible spouse with dependent, I a US citizen living</p> <p>4 outside the country and intend to return, I am a US</p> <p>5 citizen living outside of the country and my intent to</p> <p>6 return is uncertain, I am a US citizen living outside</p> <p>7 the country. I have never lived inside the United</p> <p>8 States.</p> <p>9 Did I read those correctly?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q And do you know what happens if a voter does</p> <p>12 not check one of these five boxes?</p> <p>13 A I am not 100 percent sure. It may depend on</p> <p>14 whether the voter is using this form for voter</p> <p>15 registration versus just as a way of affirming who</p> <p>16 they are upon reaching the ballot.</p> <p>17 Q Would you agree with me that in some states,</p> <p>18 if a voter did not check one of these five boxes, that</p> <p>19 the state would require the voter to either resubmit</p> <p>20 the write-in ballot or provide additional information</p> <p>21 before they would accept the Federal Write-In Absentee</p> <p>22 Ballot?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 number; is that correct?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q And I should specify these fields are</p> <p>4 separate, so social security is one field, driver's</p> <p>5 license or state ID is another field?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q And you had mentioned that the Federal</p> <p>8 Voting Assistance Program did not make changes to the</p> <p>9 form, specifically the federal Write-In Absentee</p> <p>10 Ballot in response to Senate Bill 1; correct?</p> <p>11 A That's correct.</p> <p>12 Q And so the fields that have social security</p> <p>13 number and the field that has driver's license or</p> <p>14 state ID number, is this form independent of the</p> <p>15 requirements of Senate Bill 1; is that correct?</p> <p>16 A That's my understanding, yes.</p> <p>17 Q Were the fields for social security number</p> <p>18 and driver's license or state ID on this form prior to</p> <p>19 2021?</p> <p>20 A Yes.</p> <p>21 Q And is this also an example of you not</p> <p>22 remembering the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot not</p>

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Pages 74 to 77

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 having a field for social security number and/or</p> <p>2 driver's license and state ID?</p> <p>3 A I don't recall whether it was or was not on</p> <p>4 there for my entire time there, but I don't recall</p> <p>5 that.</p> <p>6 Q Okay. To your recollection, did these</p> <p>7 fields exist prior to 2021?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q To your recollection, do you know how long</p> <p>10 they would have been on this form?</p> <p>11 A I would say multiple election cycles. I</p> <p>12 don't remember exactly.</p> <p>13 Q So the fields for social security numbers</p> <p>14 and driver's license or state ID have been on the</p> <p>15 Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for multiple election</p> <p>16 cycles; is that right?</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q And you don't know what percentage of voters</p> <p>19 provide either driver's license number or social</p> <p>20 security number when filling out this form, do you?</p> <p>21 A We do not.</p> <p>22 Q Do you know if voters typically fill in all</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 may tell them to check with the election official to</p> <p>2 see whether or not it's required.</p> <p>3 Q And if we look to Section 4, it says, What</p> <p>4 is your contact information. This is so election</p> <p>5 officials can reach you about your request.</p> <p>6 Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>7 A Yes.</p> <p>8 Q And there are four fields. The fields read:</p> <p>9 Email, alternate email, phone, fax.</p> <p>10 Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q And this is in part so that election</p> <p>13 officials can get in contact with the voters; is that</p> <p>14 correct?</p> <p>15 A That would be one reason they would provide</p> <p>16 the information.</p> <p>17 Q And what are the other reasons?</p> <p>18 A If they are requesting using this as a</p> <p>19 registration form and providing the email so the voter</p> <p>20 or the state can either send them a ballot by email or</p> <p>21 through some sort of email with a link-type,</p> <p>22 online-type service.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 the fields available?</p> <p>2 MS. YUN: Objection. Foundation.</p> <p>3 BY MS. HUNKER:</p> <p>4 Q You can answer.</p> <p>5 A I do not know how complete the voters submit</p> <p>6 -- complete the form before submission.</p> <p>7 Q Does the Federal Voting Assistance Program</p> <p>8 recommend to voters that they fill out all the fields</p> <p>9 on this form?</p> <p>10 A We recommend voters provide as much</p> <p>11 information as possible to ensure the election office</p> <p>12 has the information they need to process it and either</p> <p>13 register or have the ballot count.</p> <p>14 Q Do you recommend that -- when I say you, I</p> <p>15 mean the Federal Voting Assistance Program recommend</p> <p>16 that voters put down their social security number or</p> <p>17 their driver's license or state ID number?</p> <p>18 A Again, we would recommend that voters</p> <p>19 provide whatever information they feel is necessary to</p> <p>20 ensure that the state can process the form. If a</p> <p>21 voter has concern about providing those numbers</p> <p>22 because of security or whatever other reasons, then we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 Q And do you recommend to voters that they put</p> <p>2 their email or phone number?</p> <p>3 A We do.</p> <p>4 Q And you wouldn't happen to know what</p> <p>5 percentage provide their phone or email?</p> <p>6 A I do not know.</p> <p>7 Q And then if we look to No. 6, it says, What</p> <p>8 additional information must you provide.</p> <p>9 Did I read that correctly?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q And then there are a couple of sentences</p> <p>12 following. It reads, Alabama requires two witness</p> <p>13 signatures; Alaska, Virginia, and Wisconsin require</p> <p>14 one witness signature.</p> <p>15 Did I read that line correctly?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 Q And so I take from this that Alabama</p> <p>18 requires two witnesses signatures in order for the</p> <p>19 absentee ballot to be counted.</p> <p>20 Is that correct?</p> <p>21 MS. YUN: Objection. Foundation.</p> <p>22 THE DEPONENT: In our coordination with the</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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§
§
§
§
§
§

Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX DD

Transcript of the Testimony of
Lisa Wise

Date:

April 13, 2022

Case:

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO et al. vs GREGORY W. ABBOTT

Lisa Wise

April 13, 2022

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
 3 SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

3 LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO)
 et al.,)
 4 Plaintiffs,)
 5 v.) Civil Action No. SA-21-CV-
) 00844-XR
 6 GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,)
 Defendants.)
 7
 8
 9

10 -----
 11 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
 LISA WISE
 APRIL 13, 2022
 Volume 1
 12 -----
 13
 14

15 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF LISA
 16 WISE produced as a witness at the instance of Plaintiff,
 17 and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and
 18 numbered cause on the 13th day of April, 2022 from 10:02
 19 a.m. mountain time to 5:27 p.m. mountain time, before
 20 Nancy Newhouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for
 21 the State of Texas, reported by oral shorthand, located
 22 at the 500 East San Antonio, Room 503, El Paso, Texas
 23 79901, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
 24 and the provisions stated on the record or attached
 25 hereto.

Lisa Wise

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Pages 138 to 141

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 A. Correct.</p> <p>2 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So apart from providing your</p> <p>3 driver's license number or your social security number,</p> <p>4 what other information is required on the form for</p> <p>5 application by ballot by mail?</p> <p>6 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>7 A. Depending on the election there may be a party</p> <p>8 selection, if it's a primary; what qualifies you to vote</p> <p>9 by mail, so obviously your date of birth is required; if</p> <p>10 you're voting by mail because of disability, you need to</p> <p>11 mark that; if you're voting by mail because you're going</p> <p>12 to be out of the county during early voting on Election</p> <p>13 Day you mark that and then give us an address outside</p> <p>14 the county to mail the ballot, that's that on the</p> <p>15 qualifications.</p> <p>16 The other information is what elections</p> <p>17 you want. There is the annual option, which is, if you</p> <p>18 qualify, you must be 65 or over or have marked disabled</p> <p>19 on the application, and in that example we'll give you a</p> <p>20 ballot for every election that your jurisdiction is</p> <p>21 participating in, we'll send you one so you don't have</p> <p>22 to keep sending in the application. Or you can mark the</p> <p>23 -- this, in this one for example you could mark Democrat</p> <p>24 or Republican primary or any resulting runoff, the</p> <p>25 election selection.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) And when did you start</p> <p>3 maintaining that information?</p> <p>4 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, calls for</p> <p>5 speculation.</p> <p>6 A. Yeah. I mean, well before I started.</p> <p>7 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Do you remember what the</p> <p>8 requirement is to keep that information?</p> <p>9 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague, calls for</p> <p>10 legal conclusion.</p> <p>11 A. I'm sorry, I don't understand the question.</p> <p>12 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Do you remember what law</p> <p>13 required you to gather that information when voters</p> <p>14 registered?</p> <p>15 MS. SPECTOR: Same objections.</p> <p>16 A. I -- I don't know the law offhand. I know</p> <p>17 that -- that right now that's required from the</p> <p>18 registration form, and that we do ask for that, but no,</p> <p>19 that was well before I lived here, probably even in the</p> <p>20 state of Texas.</p> <p>21 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Does the identification</p> <p>22 number, whether it's the driver's license, a</p> <p>23 certificate, identification certificate or your social</p> <p>24 security number, does that end up in the public file</p> <p>25 that can be obtained on voters?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) What information on the</p> <p>2 application for ballot by mail is used to identify the</p> <p>3 voter requesting the ballot, apart from the driver's</p> <p>4 license number or the partial social -- social security</p> <p>5 number?</p> <p>6 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>7 A. It's generally the name, address and date of</p> <p>8 birth.</p> <p>9 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) And is the name of registered</p> <p>10 voters on that public file that you maintain?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And is the address on that public file?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. And is the date of birth?</p> <p>15 A. We do not give date of birth out on the public</p> <p>16 file.</p> <p>17 Q. And now after -- strike that.</p> <p>18 Sin -- you maintain driver's license</p> <p>19 numbers and partial social security numbers in your</p> <p>20 voter registration file, is that correct?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 MS. SPECTOR: Objection --</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Sorry.</p> <p>24 MS. SPECTOR: -- vague.</p> <p>25 It's okay.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>2 A. It's in our system, but it's not run on the</p> <p>3 voter file for the publically-released information.</p> <p>4 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So if I wrote in and asked for</p> <p>5 all the voters registered in El Paso County, I wouldn't</p> <p>6 get the driver's license number or the social security</p> <p>7 number, correct?</p> <p>8 A. Correct.</p> <p>9 Q. And are the voter registration files regularly</p> <p>10 requested from your office?</p> <p>11 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>12 A. Regularly? I -- I mean, we get -- we get</p> <p>13 requests. I don't know exactly how many we've had, but</p> <p>14 I would say monthly at least.</p> <p>15 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Is it a big file?</p> <p>16 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>17 A. It's large.</p> <p>18 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) How many people are registered</p> <p>19 in the -- in the system?</p> <p>20 A. About 495,000.</p> <p>21 Q. And do you know who's requesting those files?</p> <p>22 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>23 A. We -- it's we get different people. We've had</p> <p>24 media that requests it, we have campaigns or candidates</p> <p>25 that request it, we have the city clerks who are allowed</p>

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Pages 142 to 145

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 by law to have a copy, so they'll take the list, and</p> <p>2 that's -- that's about it.</p> <p>3 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So does adding an additional</p> <p>4 requirement to the application for ballot by mail that's</p> <p>5 not in that public file, would you admit that that makes</p> <p>6 it more difficult for somebody to impersonate a</p> <p>7 registered voter and request their ballot?</p> <p>8 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, calls for</p> <p>9 speculation, vague.</p> <p>10 A. I mean, in my experience I have not seen an</p> <p>11 impersonation on that form, but yes, I would say it</p> <p>12 does.</p> <p>13 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) And how would you know if</p> <p>14 somebody was impersonating a registered voter and</p> <p>15 requesting their ballot illegally?</p> <p>16 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>17 A. I mean, generally, when we would get the</p> <p>18 ballot, have it sent to that location, the address of</p> <p>19 the registered voter. If that person didn't ask it, we</p> <p>20 -- we'll get calls and somebody might say -- we've had</p> <p>21 this.</p> <p>22 We have had this happen, where somebody</p> <p>23 requested an annual ballot, maybe in January, and then</p> <p>24 the ballot for the March election might come and they</p> <p>25 may say I don't remember that I requested this, and so</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So Ms. Wise, I'm going to hand</p> <p>2 you another document, I think this is now Exhibit 5.</p> <p>3 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 5 was marked for</p> <p>4 identification.)</p> <p>5 (Sneeze.)</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Excuse me.</p> <p>7 VIDEOGRAPHER: Bless you.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, I apologize.</p> <p>9 MS. SPECTOR: You're okay.</p> <p>10 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Have you had a chance to look</p> <p>11 at it?</p> <p>12 So Ms. Wise, can you --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- read the title at the top of this page?</p> <p>15 A. "Voter Information Field Guide".</p> <p>16 Q. And can you read the bottom footer?</p> <p>17 A. The Exhibit 5 or the revised?</p> <p>18 Q. At the very bottom of Exhibit 5, can you read</p> <p>19 what it has on the document?</p> <p>20 A. "Revised 02/09/2021".</p> <p>21 Q. Are you familiar with this document?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. And what is your understanding of what this</p> <p>24 is?</p> <p>25 A. This explains what the categories are in the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 we'll show them the form and they did.</p> <p>2 So I would assume we would be either</p> <p>3 alerted to that, if a ballot was sent to an address that</p> <p>4 someone did not request it, and then once the ballot is</p> <p>5 returned, if it is, the signature verification on that.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) And do you have any history of</p> <p>7 people complaining about receiving a ballot that they</p> <p>8 didn't request?</p> <p>9 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>10 A. Just those few examples where maybe they</p> <p>11 forgot, but we have had people come down into our office</p> <p>12 and actually review their application, and then they</p> <p>13 will. We've never had someone say no, that's absolutely</p> <p>14 not my signature. When they come in, they -- they've</p> <p>15 all agreed yes, okay, I forgot that I sent this in, or I</p> <p>16 didn't know that.</p> <p>17 MR. JEFF WHITE: It's been an hour in</p> <p>18 this session. Why don't we take a break here for a</p> <p>19 little bit?</p> <p>20 MS. SPECTOR: Okay.</p> <p>21 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are off record at 2:15</p> <p>22 p.m.</p> <p>23 (Off the record.)</p> <p>24 VIDEOGRAPHER: We are back on record at</p> <p>25 2:32 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p> <p>1 voter -- in a -- in the voter registration system.</p> <p>2 Q. Does this show the information that the public</p> <p>3 can obtain with a request to your office?</p> <p>4 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>5 A. I believe so, with the exception of the birth</p> <p>6 date. There was a case, not 100 percent sure when, but</p> <p>7 that's not, that's no longer included in our voter file</p> <p>8 made available to the public.</p> <p>9 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So if I told you I pulled this</p> <p>10 off your website, is this out of date?</p> <p>11 A. Probably.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you --</p> <p>13 A. I would have to double check. I know that I</p> <p>14 -- what I remember that we could give the year but not</p> <p>15 the full DOB, if I remember correctly.</p> <p>16 Q. And you believe there is a case that made that</p> <p>17 the requirement?</p> <p>18 A. I believe it was an AG opinion. I don't</p> <p>19 remember exactly about DOBs being public.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember about when that may have come</p> <p>21 out?</p> <p>22 A. I don't, I'm sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. So we talked in detail about the application</p> <p>24 for ballot by mail in the 2020 March primary. So now I</p> <p>25 want to move to the situation where you've actually sent</p>

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Pages 214 to 217

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 214</p> <p>1 them. I don't know if I would say that they were trying</p> <p>2 to register, since they marked on there not citizen,</p> <p>3 very few, I think I can think of three, so obviously we</p> <p>4 sent them a rejection notification stating that they are</p> <p>5 -- they marked non-citizen, we are not able to register,</p> <p>6 as directed by law.</p> <p>7 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Have you ever identified</p> <p>8 individuals that have successfully registered to vote,</p> <p>9 and then later you found out that they were not</p> <p>10 citizens?</p> <p>11 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>12 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>13 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Have you ever received any</p> <p>14 complaints about voters being paid to vote for a</p> <p>15 particular candidate?</p> <p>16 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Are you aware of any</p> <p>19 allegations of that sort in El Paso County?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. In El Paso County do you have any issues with</p> <p>22 organizations that gather voter registration cards</p> <p>23 providing invalid registrations?</p> <p>24 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>25 MS. PERALES: I'm sorry, could you repeat</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 216</p> <p>1 you believe fraud occurs in elections in El Paso County?</p> <p>2 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>3 A. In my experience in El Paso County and my</p> <p>4 experience in -- in Douglas County in Nebraska, very</p> <p>5 isolated incidents.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) And do you -- strike that.</p> <p>7 Do you think some voters in Texas think</p> <p>8 that fraud occurs in elections?</p> <p>9 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form, calls for</p> <p>10 speculation.</p> <p>11 A. I do.</p> <p>12 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Do you hear from those voters</p> <p>13 about their concerns about fraud?</p> <p>14 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>15 A. I do. However, it seems that steps that we've</p> <p>16 taken -- I mean, we used to get complaints about fraud</p> <p>17 dealing with the machines, now we have paper-based</p> <p>18 system, so that's -- you know, those are all -- have all</p> <p>19 been basically handled.</p> <p>20 So it -- it seems like we get kind of a</p> <p>21 little pocket here of an issue and then it's --</p> <p>22 hopefully, it's gets resolved by either being</p> <p>23 transparent or meeting with them, having them come lodge</p> <p>24 an accuracy test, explaining processes and then it's</p> <p>25 generally dropped.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 215</p> <p>1 the question? I can't hear, because you're --</p> <p>2 MR. JEFF WHITE: Oh, I'm sorry.</p> <p>3 MS. PERALES: -- facing away from me, and</p> <p>4 your voice is getting softer.</p> <p>5 MR. JEFF WHITE: Sorry. I will say it.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Are you aware of any</p> <p>7 organizations that collect voter registration</p> <p>8 information providing you with faulty information?</p> <p>9 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague.</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) Have you had any complaints in</p> <p>12 El Paso County about individuals providing assistance to</p> <p>13 voters but pressuring the voter to vote a certain way?</p> <p>14 MS. SPECTOR: Objection, vague, compound.</p> <p>15 A. We've had isolated incidences of someone</p> <p>16 calling and say I -- I think I heard someone tell him</p> <p>17 how to vote, or I was at the polling site and so and so</p> <p>18 was telling their wife how to vote, those isolated</p> <p>19 instance -- incidences, yes, but, you know, generally,</p> <p>20 we would call the judge and ask them, did you -- did you</p> <p>21 witness this, has this been an issue? We haven't had</p> <p>22 anything substantiated on that. It's nothing that we've</p> <p>23 had documentation on.</p> <p>24 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So in your opinion as</p> <p>25 elections administrator, based on your experience, do</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 217</p> <p>1 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So if citizens of Texas are</p> <p>2 concerned about fraud, do you think it's a valid purpose</p> <p>3 of the legislature to take steps to reduce that concern,</p> <p>4 whether or not the fraud is actually happening or not?</p> <p>5 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form, calls for</p> <p>6 legal conclusion, vague and calls for speculation.</p> <p>7 A. I believe to take necessary steps, reasonable</p> <p>8 steps, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) If voters are concerned about</p> <p>10 fraud, does that affect their confidence in the outcome</p> <p>11 of elections?</p> <p>12 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form, calls for</p> <p>13 speculation.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. (BY MR. WHITE) So if the legislature takes</p> <p>16 steps that reduce their concern about fraud, would the</p> <p>17 result be that they would have greater confidence in the</p> <p>18 outcome of elections?</p> <p>19 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form, calls for</p> <p>20 speculation.</p> <p>21 A. I think that's a pretty vague question. I</p> <p>22 think there's some steps that you -- that can be taken</p> <p>23 for that, to reach that, however, I don't know if, you</p> <p>24 know, voters also lose faith in the process if they</p> <p>25 don't believe that their vote counts, or that they're</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX EE

Transcript of the Testimony of
Lisa Wise

Date:

April 15, 2022

Case:

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO et al. vs GREGORY W. ABBOTT

Lisa Wise

April 15, 2022

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
 3 SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

3 LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO)
 4 et al.,)
 5 Plaintiffs,)
 6 v.) Civil Action No. SA-21-CV-
 7) 00844-XR
 8 GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,)
 9 Defendants.)

10 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
 11 LISA WISE
 12 APRIL 15, 2022
 13 Volume 1

14
 15
 16 ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF LISA
 17 WISE produced as a witness at the instance of Plaintiff,
 18 and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and
 19 numbered cause on the 14th day of April, 2022 from 9:06
 20 a.m. to 5:05 p.m., before Nancy Newhouse, a Certified
 21 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas,
 22 reported by oral shorthand, located at the 500 East San
 23 Antonio, Room 503, El Paso, Texas 79901, pursuant to the
 24 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the provisions
 25 stated on the record or attached hereto.

Lisa Wise

April 15, 2022
Pages 34 to 37

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 A. I don't believe that we contacted our vendor.</p> <p>2 We -- we can import that list into -- into our system</p> <p>3 without, I believe, going through there, unless there's</p> <p>4 fields that weren't created yet or something like that,</p> <p>5 so I believe we did that internally.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MS. PERALES) And so when you import that</p> <p>7 update into your system, would that have to be done</p> <p>8 individually by voter, or could it come as a multiple-</p> <p>9 voter input to you?</p> <p>10 BY MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>11 A. I believe as one -- one report, we would do</p> <p>12 one action to import it.</p> <p>13 Q. (BY MS. PERALES) Do you know if that update</p> <p>14 information was provided to El Paso County in a way that</p> <p>15 you could import it?</p> <p>16 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>17 A. I believe so; how -- I -- however, I have to</p> <p>18 say I'm not 100 percent sure.</p> <p>19 Q. (BY MS. PERALES) So is it your best</p> <p>20 understanding that El Paso County did, in fact, receive</p> <p>21 and import that update from the Secretary of State?</p> <p>22 MS. SPECTOR: Object to form.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. (BY MS. PERALES) And it is -- is it also fair</p> <p>25 to say that, after that update, you still had many</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 A. Correct.</p> <p>2 Q. And if the worker saw, for example, no</p> <p>3 driver's license or last four of the social for that</p> <p>4 voter, what would the worker do with the application for</p> <p>5 ballot by mail right in that moment?</p> <p>6 A. You would mark it as pending, and we would --</p> <p>7 we would send them a notice, a notification, letting</p> <p>8 them know that this information was missing, with a</p> <p>9 clean application, eventually, with a voter registration</p> <p>10 form, so if they wanted to match that up, and -- and</p> <p>11 mail it back out.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And would you do that immediately, or</p> <p>13 would you put that application for ballot by mail or</p> <p>14 mail ballot to the side, to wait a day or so to check</p> <p>15 the ballot tracker and see if you could get updated</p> <p>16 information that way?</p> <p>17 A. We were turning them around in about 24 to 48</p> <p>18 hours; however, we still were tracking -- we were still</p> <p>19 checking ballot tracker one by one on pending or</p> <p>20 rejected, to see if those had -- had been updated.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. So when you were sending the voter the</p> <p>22 notice that you -- you were unable to confirm the number</p> <p>23 on their application for ballot by mail, for example,</p> <p>24 would you enclose that original application for ballot</p> <p>25 by mail in the mailing back to the voter, or would you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 voters for whom you were unable to match information</p> <p>2 that they provided on their application for ballot by</p> <p>3 mail, or mail ballot related to ID number?</p> <p>4 MR. JEFFREY WHITE: Objection, form.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MS. PERALES) Yesterday you mentioned that</p> <p>7 when you had either an application for ballot by mail or</p> <p>8 mail ballot with a number that you could not match, that</p> <p>9 you would go into TEAM and see if there was an update on</p> <p>10 that voter's ID number information, is that correct?</p> <p>11 A. We would go into the ballot tracker. That was</p> <p>12 the -- I'm sorry, if I said TEAM I meant ballot tracker.</p> <p>13 Q. Probably my mistake in note-taking.</p> <p>14 So I want to walk you through those steps</p> <p>15 from when you received the application for ballot by</p> <p>16 mail or mail ballot.</p> <p>17 So if you can think about that time</p> <p>18 leading up to the March 2022 primary election, and your</p> <p>19 office or one of your workers would receive an</p> <p>20 application for ballot by mail, and there would be an ID</p> <p>21 number written on there, that worker would then look up</p> <p>22 the voter, is that how it would work?</p> <p>23 A. Correct.</p> <p>24 Q. That worker would be looking up the voter in</p> <p>25 the El Paso County system, is that right?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 hang onto the application for ballot by mail?</p> <p>2 A. We would hang on to that. But the</p> <p>3 notification also informed them how they could get on</p> <p>4 ballot tracker. So honestly, until we sent them that</p> <p>5 notification, the voter real -- wasn't aware that they</p> <p>6 -- their ballot -- ballot tracker existed. So we would</p> <p>7 keep it, we would send them a clean copy with the</p> <p>8 notification and -- and how they could get on the ballot</p> <p>9 tracker, if they wanted, or just send in a new</p> <p>10 application.</p> <p>11 Q. So because you retained the applications for</p> <p>12 ballot by mail, you were able then to both notify the</p> <p>13 voter, but maybe also use that document to check in a</p> <p>14 day or so against the ballot tracker, to see if the</p> <p>15 information had been updated?</p> <p>16 A. Correct.</p> <p>17 Q. How many times would you check for, let's say,</p> <p>18 one particular application for ballot by mail, was it</p> <p>19 just after that couple of days later, then you would</p> <p>20 just put it aside if you still couldn't match it?</p> <p>21 A. No. We'd continue to check until we basically</p> <p>22 had no more time to check. We -- we asked for reports,</p> <p>23 you know, or, I mean, we were kind of doing two things.</p> <p>24 We were asking reports for the SOS, we were also trying</p> <p>25 to get our vendor to work with that system, to give us</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX FF

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO)
ENTERO, et al.,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
vs.)
) NO. 5:21-cv-844-XR
GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)

ORAL AND VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF
LISA WISE
April 18, 2023
(REMOTELY REPORTED)

The Oral and Videotaped Deposition of LISA WISE,
produced as a witness at the instance of the defendant,
and duly sworn, was taken in the above-styled and
numbered cause on the 18th of April, 2023 from 9:13 a.m.
to 3:27 p.m., in and for the State of Texas, reported by
machine shorthand, conducted El Paso County Courthouse
500 E. San Antonio, 5th Floor, Suite 503 El Paso, Texas
79901, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
and the provisions stated on the record or attached
hereto.

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023
Pages 38 to 41

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) That's a good question --</p> <p>2 that's a good distinction.</p> <p>3 So you receive applications for ballots by</p> <p>4 mail weeks, if not months, in advance of an election,</p> <p>5 correct?</p> <p>6 A. Correct.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. So let's talk then first about the ones</p> <p>8 that are received well before the election -- before</p> <p>9 the -- the ballots go out.</p> <p>10 When does your office check to determine</p> <p>11 whether or not the application for ballot by mail</p> <p>12 satisfied the ID number requirement after it arrived?</p> <p>13 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>14 A. Usually that day or the next business day.</p> <p>15 Depending on, obviously, how many we have.</p> <p>16 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) And how long from that does it</p> <p>17 take to issue a notice of defect in the event that the</p> <p>18 number did not match?</p> <p>19 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>20 A. I would say 24 to 48 hours.</p> <p>21 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) So is it fair to say that if</p> <p>22 an application for ballot by mail arrives in your</p> <p>23 office, a notice of defect will go out within 24 to 48</p> <p>24 hours in the event that that application for ballot by</p> <p>25 mail did not satisfy the ID number requirements?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 the system; is that correct?</p> <p>2 A. Correct.</p> <p>3 Q. And in the event the number is not in your</p> <p>4 system, do you check the TEAMS database?</p> <p>5 A. We do.</p> <p>6 Q. So you mentioned that you send out an insert</p> <p>7 for the applications for ballot by mail. In the event</p> <p>8 that there was a defect due to the numbers not appearing</p> <p>9 in the system, do you also send out a voter registration</p> <p>10 form with the notice of defect?</p> <p>11 A. We do.</p> <p>12 Q. And that is because a voter can update the ID</p> <p>13 numbers for the voter registration file by submitting a</p> <p>14 voter registration form; is that correct?</p> <p>15 A. Correct.</p> <p>16 Q. And did you notice that sending a voter</p> <p>17 registration form along with the notice of defect helped</p> <p>18 the voter cure?</p> <p>19 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) And so I want to talk now</p> <p>22 about the ballot by mail.</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. Federal law requires that ballots by mail go</p> <p>25 out 45 days to military and overseas voters before a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>2 A. Yes. Now, if we have a lot of them, I mean,</p> <p>3 that's a separate issue. I mean, it could be three</p> <p>4 days, it could be 72 hours. But in general, I would say</p> <p>5 two days. I would say 48 hours.</p> <p>6 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Is it fair to say that you try</p> <p>7 to get the notice of defect out as fast as possible to</p> <p>8 inform the voter of the need to cure?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And is that true for applications that arrive</p> <p>11 closer to the election?</p> <p>12 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) And if an application for</p> <p>15 ballot by mail arrives and it has a defect other than an</p> <p>16 ID number related issue, how long does that take to go</p> <p>17 out?</p> <p>18 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>19 A. Same time.</p> <p>20 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) And you are an offline county,</p> <p>21 correct?</p> <p>22 A. We're an offline county.</p> <p>23 Q. So when an application for ballot by mail comes</p> <p>24 in, your office first checks your offline county</p> <p>25 database system to determine whether the ID number is in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 federal election, correct?</p> <p>2 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>3 A. Correct.</p> <p>4 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Did your office meet that</p> <p>5 deadline this -- for the November 2022 General Election?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And when did the ballots go out for voters who</p> <p>8 were not military or overseas?</p> <p>9 A. They got out the next week. Sometimes it's</p> <p>10 four days later, sometimes it's five days later, but</p> <p>11 they go within the next week following the military and</p> <p>12 overseas.</p> <p>13 Q. And when a ballot by mail comes in, does your</p> <p>14 office remove the flap to check whether or not the ID</p> <p>15 number was included on the carrier envelope?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And does your office check that number against</p> <p>18 the system?</p> <p>19 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>20 MS. HUNKER: Let me rephrase that.</p> <p>21 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Does your office check the ID</p> <p>22 number on the carrier envelope to the voter's</p> <p>23 registration file?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. How does your office contact the voter to</p>

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023
Pages 86 to 89

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 Administrator account?</p> <p>2 A. Yes. It's El Paso County Elections.</p> <p>3 Q. Were any of the groups you spoke with -- you</p> <p>4 know, you gave the example of rotary groups -- were any</p> <p>5 of those in Spanish?</p> <p>6 A. None that I spoke to, no.</p> <p>7 Q. More broadly with your office, do you know if</p> <p>8 there were any?</p> <p>9 A. I know that when we did the -- like, our voter</p> <p>10 registration drives, both of -- we have Spanish speakers</p> <p>11 at those, and I know that they did address that with</p> <p>12 people that had questions and things like that.</p> <p>13 So I know they were able to communicate if</p> <p>14 somebody brought that question up in Spanish at those</p> <p>15 locations, but -- those events. But when I would speak</p> <p>16 at events, no.</p> <p>17 Q. I think you said you did not have any paid</p> <p>18 media in connection with the November 2022 General,</p> <p>19 right?</p> <p>20 A. Correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Who developed the content of this outreach?</p> <p>22 Let's take them one at a time.</p> <p>23 So we'll start with, you know, what you're</p> <p>24 going to say in an in-person town hall, you know, who</p> <p>25 comes up with the content for that?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 anything on the insert?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. And then for social media, were you also coming</p> <p>4 up with the content for that?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you consult with the SOS on your voter</p> <p>7 education efforts in any way beyond the insert?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Were you aware during the General Election</p> <p>10 period of the voter education efforts conducted by the</p> <p>11 Secretary of State?</p> <p>12 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>13 A. I'm aware that they had mentioned that that was</p> <p>14 going to be a component.</p> <p>15 But as far as voter education, we would</p> <p>16 receive our advisories, but I did not -- I was not</p> <p>17 seeing anything out in the -- I guess, in the public if</p> <p>18 that's what you're asking.</p> <p>19 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Yeah. Maybe I'll ask it more</p> <p>20 crisply, you know.</p> <p>21 Did you notice the presence of the</p> <p>22 Secretary of State's voter education efforts during the</p> <p>23 General Election?</p> <p>24 MS. HUNKER: Objection. Form.</p> <p>25 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>2 A. Generally I do. When -- and it's basically</p> <p>3 based off of the insert and things like that, which I</p> <p>4 created in conjunction with our County Attorney's Office</p> <p>5 to make sure there wasn't any issue with that. And then</p> <p>6 also, share that with the SOS, just to let them know</p> <p>7 that we were doing that and -- so they knew that that</p> <p>8 was something we were promoting.</p> <p>9 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Did the SOS, and I assume you</p> <p>10 mean the Secretary of State --</p> <p>11 A. Yes, yes --</p> <p>12 Q. Yeah, just for the record.</p> <p>13 Did the SOS have any feedback on the</p> <p>14 insert?</p> <p>15 A. I think they supported that. I mean, you know,</p> <p>16 we had had those conversations that other counties were</p> <p>17 also doing some inserts. And that's kind of where we</p> <p>18 got the idea, too. So I believe they were in favor of</p> <p>19 it.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you pattern your insert off another county?</p> <p>21 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>22 A. No, I don't think we did. We may have picked</p> <p>23 from a couple that we saw that we liked, but we really</p> <p>24 drafted that on our own with our attorneys.</p> <p>25 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Did the SOS ask you to change</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 A. I remember a press release. And that's --</p> <p>2 that's what I remember.</p> <p>3 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Okay. Did you receive any</p> <p>4 feedback from voters regarding the voter education</p> <p>5 efforts you undertook?</p> <p>6 A. Yes. I mean, I know that they did appreciate</p> <p>7 the insert, and we -- especially with the ballot, where</p> <p>8 we would send the picture of what the envelope would</p> <p>9 look like and highlight where they were supposed to</p> <p>10 actually fill it in and send the screenshot. I know</p> <p>11 that people -- we did get positive feedback on that.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you hear from any voters who were</p> <p>13 continuing to struggle with the ID number requirements</p> <p>14 during the General Election?</p> <p>15 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>16 MS. HUNKER: Object to form.</p> <p>17 A. Yes, we did.</p> <p>18 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) About how many?</p> <p>19 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>20 A. That's really tough to -- to give. I didn't</p> <p>21 keep -- I didn't keep track of that. We would get some</p> <p>22 calls, and I -- I don't know the number.</p> <p>23 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Was it primarily by phone?</p> <p>24 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>25 A. Primarily by phone. We would -- we would get</p>

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023
Pages 90 to 93

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 maybe something on an application, a little note like, 2 why do I have to fill this out, like, something like 3 that. But mostly phone. 4 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Was most of that feedback 5 regarding the ID requirement? 6 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 7 MS. HUNKER: Objection. Form. 8 A. Was the feedback about the ID requirement 9 regarding the ID? 10 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Yeah. I guess that's -- let 11 me -- 12 A. Sorry. 13 Q. -- strike that question and make -- make it 14 much clearer. 15 I guess I would say, what portion of the, 16 you know, overall feedback you received from voters 17 during the General Election period pertained to the ID 18 requirement? 19 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 20 MS. HUNKER: Object to form. 21 A. It's hard for me to really quantify that, 22 honestly. Because, like I said, we really didn't 23 keep -- keep track of it in, like, how many calls we got 24 about the ID. But we did still spend a lot of time 25 explaining ID -- ID requirements to -- to voters that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 Q. That did not begin during the General -- 2 right -- that predated the General? 3 A. That predated the General. 4 Q. Why did you continue to give that advice? 5 A. We had done that about -- we didn't do it 6 initially in March until we started to see these -- you 7 know, these rejection rates and these -- coming back, so 8 then we started to include it, I would say about, 9 halfway through the actual process in -- for the March 10 election. 11 So basically we just said, look, let's -- 12 let's not wait for an application to be rejected, let's 13 just give them all this information at the very 14 beginning. So we -- if somebody asked us for, you know, 15 an application, then with the application we would send 16 them that information. 17 Now, people can also get an application on 18 our website or they could get it from a party. You 19 know, there might be other entities that send out the 20 application. We can't control that they didn't have the 21 insert or any of that information in there, and so we 22 may still receive applications that were not -- that 23 didn't comply with that requirement. 24 Q. Were there any ways besides the insert that you 25 transmitted that message to voters?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 were on it to vote by mail. 2 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Did you generate any topics 3 for future voter education based on what you were 4 hearing from voters? 5 A. So generally we do a pretty robust media 6 package for presidential years 'cause we always have 7 something that comes up. 8 For example, in 2024 -- I'm sorry. In 9 2020, we had the pandemic. So in 2024, we will, again, 10 do a media package, and one of the components will be 11 the identifier. We will really try to replace some of 12 that pandemic language with the -- the identifier, the 13 changes, and, frankly, any major changes that come out 14 of this legislative session. 15 So we -- we try to do that because we have 16 a lot of voters who do only vote every four years, and 17 we like to -- you know, we don't have an endless budget, 18 so we kind of put that all in -- what we can in the 19 presidential years. 20 Q. I -- I believe you've already said, correct me 21 if I'm wrong, that at some point, your office began 22 advising voters to put both their driver's license or ID 23 number and their Social Security number on mail ballot 24 materials; is that correct? 25 A. Correct.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 2 MS. HUNKER: Object to form. 3 A. The social media, the -- you know, what we did 4 with interviews. Anything we could, we would try to get 5 that information out. But frankly, you know, the best 6 bang for the buck was with the application because they 7 were, we know, going to fill that out, and it was there 8 included in the packet. 9 MR. STEWART: I want to use -- I think 10 we're on number 5? 11 THE REPORTER: Yes. 12 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) And I don't want to rush you 13 reading it, but, in general, do you recognize this 14 document? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. And what is this? 17 A. This is our application for ballot by mail. 18 Q. And your office uses the standard ABBM prepared 19 by the Secretary of State, correct? 20 A. We do. 21 Q. And you would agree that the portion that 22 implements the ID number requirement is below the 23 bold -- or the capital letters, rather, you must provide 24 one and then lower case of the following numbers? 25 A. Yes.</p>

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023
Pages 118 to 121

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 Let me put it this way; during the</p> <p>2 November 2022 General Election cycle, did El Paso County</p> <p>3 do any investigation of whether the ID numbers, so</p> <p>4 driver's license, SSN, and ID number, contained in VOTEC</p> <p>5 are accurate?</p> <p>6 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>7 MS. HUNKER: Object to form.</p> <p>8 A. So, like, specifically check if, like, my</p> <p>9 driver's license matches what the DPS gave the State?</p> <p>10 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) Yes.</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you conduct any investigation like that for</p> <p>13 El Paso County voters located in TEAM?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Earlier today, I believe counsel asked you</p> <p>16 whether the November 2022 General Election was</p> <p>17 successful in El Paso County, specifically as it relates</p> <p>18 to mail balloting; is that right?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And you said it was successful, right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. How do you define success in this circumstance?</p> <p>23 A. So -- it -- when I would look at success, I</p> <p>24 mean, that was kind of a question I asked, is that I</p> <p>25 would say, you know, were we have -- was there anything</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 Q. So when you say that the election was</p> <p>2 successful, was that making any comment on, you know,</p> <p>3 whether the mail ballots rejection rate was acceptable?</p> <p>4 MS. HUNKER: Object to form.</p> <p>5 MS. LEBEL: Object to form.</p> <p>6 A. I don't think so. I think it's just, to me,</p> <p>7 did we do the best we could with what we had? And</p> <p>8 that's, I guess, how I kind of looked at it.</p> <p>9 Q. (BY MR. STEWART) And I think you also</p> <p>10 testified earlier that you weren't aware of any voters</p> <p>11 who were unable to vote because of SB1; is that right?</p> <p>12 A. Correct.</p> <p>13 Q. That doesn't include voters having their mail</p> <p>14 ballots rejected because of the identification number</p> <p>15 requirement, correct?</p> <p>16 A. Correct.</p> <p>17 Q. How did you understand -- so, let me strike</p> <p>18 that.</p> <p>19 What did you include in not able to vote</p> <p>20 then when you were asked that question?</p> <p>21 A. I'm sorry?</p> <p>22 Q. Sure.</p> <p>23 When counsel asked you, you know, were any</p> <p>24 voters unable to vote, how did you determine whether</p> <p>25 someone was unable to vote?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 that violated the code? Was there anything that stood</p> <p>2 out that was obviously we'd done something wrong and</p> <p>3 that kept voters from voting? You know, those kinds of</p> <p>4 things is how I guess I would deem that.</p> <p>5 Q. So were you answering it from the standpoint of</p> <p>6 the El Paso County Election Administration's</p> <p>7 administration of the election?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you believe there were areas for</p> <p>10 improvement?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. What were those?</p> <p>13 A. There's always things I know that we can do</p> <p>14 better. I think that in -- with regards to -- we did</p> <p>15 have to send out a corrected ballot. I know we</p> <p>16 mentioned that earlier. We -- I believe there's things</p> <p>17 we could be quicker on. I mean, I know sometimes we get</p> <p>18 stuff out in 48 hours. With the sheer volume, sometimes</p> <p>19 we can't get stuff out in 24 hours. I'd love to have</p> <p>20 our staff trained even better, having more knowledge on</p> <p>21 the Election Code.</p> <p>22 So there's always a couple of things I'd</p> <p>23 love to see us do a little bit differently. Have more</p> <p>24 money. I'd love to do a media package every election,</p> <p>25 every general election. Those are our wish list, so --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 A. You know, I guess a final rejection on a</p> <p>2 ballot, that if they had sent that and they weren't able</p> <p>3 to cure in time, if we didn't get in touch with them.</p> <p>4 We did hear from a few voters where we sent their ballot</p> <p>5 back to be cured, and they thought it was just a second</p> <p>6 ballot, and so they didn't open it. I do remember two</p> <p>7 voters specifically that called our office that said, I</p> <p>8 tossed that ballot because I thought that was a second</p> <p>9 ballot and you just sent me another ballot.</p> <p>10 And so, I mean, those -- obviously those</p> <p>11 voters didn't vote, and they thought they had voted</p> <p>12 because they did not take the -- they did not open up</p> <p>13 the notice of defect. So those, you know, little kind</p> <p>14 of pockets out there.</p> <p>15 Q. So those are people you would characterize as</p> <p>16 unable to vote in the past election?</p> <p>17 A. Well, they thought they did, and they didn't.</p> <p>18 So --</p> <p>19 Q. Sure.</p> <p>20 MR. STEWART: Can we go off the record for</p> <p>21 two minutes?</p> <p>22 MS. LEBEL: Yup.</p> <p>23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 1:36 p.m.</p> <p>24 And we're off the record.</p> <p>25 (A recess was taken.)</p>

Lisa Wise

April 18, 2023
Pages 174 to 177

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p> <p>1 Q. Did any nonprofit group contact your office 2 about concerns over the voting assistance oath? 3 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 4 A. I don't believe so. 5 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Do you recall talking to 6 counsel about a person in your staff who handled notices 7 of defects? 8 A. Yes. 9 MS. LEBEL: Object to form and to the 10 extent this is concerning any communications with your 11 attorneys on the basis of privilege. You said talked to 12 counsel. 13 MS. HUNKER: Oh, so let me clarify. 14 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Do you recall during this 15 deposition opposing counsel asking you about a person in 16 your office who handled notices of defects? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Did that person handle notifying voters who had 19 detects other than the ID requirement -- the ID number 20 requirement? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Would it be fair to say that she handled 23 implementing the cure provisions in Senate Bill 1? 24 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 25 A. Yes.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p> <p>1 that correct? 2 A. I've seen a press release, I believe -- that I 3 remember seeing. And we received documents informing us 4 as election administrators, but I do not remember seeing 5 anything for a voter besides the press release. 6 Q. Were you specifically looking for the Secretary 7 of State's voting education material? 8 A. No. 9 Q. And when you were saying that you were 10 receiving notifications from the Secretary of State's 11 Office, can you maybe describe in a little bit more 12 detail what was in those communications? 13 A. Sure. 14 We would receive, like, copies of the press 15 release, you know, Secretary of State announces, changes 16 via SB1, updated poll watcher training, those things. 17 We would get those notifications in our -- to our email. 18 Q. Did you use any of the Secretary of State's 19 voting education materials in your own voter education 20 outreach? 21 A. I don't believe so. 22 MS. HUNKER: No further questions. 23 MS. LEBEL: Can we take 5 to 10 minutes off 24 the record? 25 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 3:16 p.m.,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p> <p>1 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Do you recall earlier in the 2 deposition opposing counsel asking whether you thought 3 the number of voters who had their ballot rejected due 4 to missing or mismatched ID numbers would ever be zero? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Do you believe that the number of voters who 7 had their ballot rejected due to missing or mismatched 8 signature will ever be zero? 9 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 10 A. No. 11 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) And so I want to clarify a 12 question that I had asked earlier based on the opposing 13 counsel's subsequent question. 14 To the best of your knowledge, you're not 15 aware of any voters who were unable to vote in-person in 16 El Paso County during the November 2022 General Election 17 because of SB1 or any of its provisions, correct? 18 MS. LEBEL: Object to form. 19 A. Not that I know of. 20 Q. (BY MS. HUNKER) Do you recall discussing the 21 Secretary of State's voter education program with 22 counsel -- opposing counsel earlier in this deposition? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And do you recall stating that you had not seen 25 the Secretary of State's voter education materials; is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p> <p>1 and we're off the record. 2 (A recess was taken.) 3 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 3:36 p.m. 4 We're back on the record. 5 MS. LEBEL: I don't have any questions. So 6 the witness is ready to review and sign. 7 MS. HUNKER: Just before we do, does the 8 intervenor defendants have any questions they want to 9 ask? 10 MR. CORE: We have no questions. Thank 11 you. 12 MR. STEWART: I have no further questions. 13 MS. PERALES: No questions here. 14 MS. HUNKER: All right. 15 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the 16 deposition. Time is 3:27 p.m. We are now off the 17 record. 18 (The deposition concluded.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
Plaintiffs,

v.

GREGORY W. ABBOTT, et al.,
Defendants.

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Case No. 5:21-cv-844-XR

STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
OCA-GH PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

APPENDIX GG



Vice Chair, Natural Resources
and Economic Development
Texas Judicial Council
Chair, Eagle Ford Shale
Legislative Caucus

Judith Zaffirini
State Senator, District 21
President Pro Tempore, 1997

Committees
Administration
Business and Commerce
State Affairs

December 3, 2018

The Honorable
Bryan Hughes, Chair
Senate Select Committee
on Election Security
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711



Dear Chair Hughes:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Election Security. It is my privilege to serve with you, and I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective regarding the Committee's Interim Report to the 86th Legislature. The report includes numerous good recommendations, and I am delighted to sign it. This letter, however, is to record my concerns regarding the need to (1.) provide concrete recommendations to address mail-in ballot fraud and (2.) reflect that Texas lags behind much of the nation in modernizing and simplifying the registration process, which is critical in offering adequate opportunities for all Texans to register to vote.

During the last several sessions many legislators have focused on voter ID laws intended to prevent in-person voter fraud, but not on the increasingly serious problem of mail-in ballot fraud. Our Committee heard troubling testimony regarding the state of election security related to the latter. The report's recommendation that the Legislature needs to find a solution to the "vexing issue" of mail-in ballot fraud at nursing homes and assisted living facilities is a good start, but we must take all possible steps to address voting irregularities caused by fraudulent mail-in ballots.

The report also states that current federal and state laws governing Texas' voter registration system "create a broad base of opportunity for registration for all Texans" and describes how eligible persons may register to vote. It does not mention, however, that we have not adopted secure voter registration reforms that

Letter to Chair Bryan Hughes
December 3, 2018
Page 2 of 2

many other states have. Texas, for example, is one of only thirteen states that does not offer online registration. The Legislature should consider this and other secure methods to facilitate voter registration.

Thank you for your dedication to the many important issues we examined during the 85th Interim. I look forward to continuing to work with you and other members of the committee during our next legislative session.

May God bless you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judith Zaffirini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Zaffirini

Z/ah

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

LA UNION DEL PUEBLO ENTERO, et al.,
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STATE DEFENDANTS' BRIEF IN RESPONSE TO
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APPENDIX HH

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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v.

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Defendants.

5:21-cv-844-XR

DECLARATION OF CHRISTINA WORRELL ADKINS SUPPORTING
DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

1. My name is Christina Worrell Adkins. I am over 18 years old and competent to make this declaration. I currently serve as the Director of the Elections Division at the Texas Secretary of State's Office and have been in this position since March 10, 2023 (initially as the Acting Director until April 26, 2023). Prior to becoming Elections Director, I served as Legal Director of the Elections Division, and I have worked at the Secretary of State's Office since 2012.
2. The Texas Secretary of State is the chief election officer for Texas. As the State's chief election officer, the Secretary, through the Elections Division, prepares and distributes guidance to appropriate state and local authorities in the administration of elections in Texas and provides certain administrative support.
3. In accordance with the Texas Election Code, the Secretary of State's Elections Division assists and advises election authorities on the application, operation, and interpretation of the Election Code and other election laws. The Secretary of State also is directed to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of the Election Code and other election laws. Our office discharges these obligations through, among other things, election advisories, handbooks and manuals, training presentations, and email correspondence to election authorities (including mass emails to election officials across the State). In this respect, the Secretary of State serves an advice-and-assistance role; ultimately, election officials—in consultation with their own counsel—must determine whether and how their actions comply with the Election Code.
4. In its 88th Regular Session, the Texas Legislature passed several bills involving provisions at issue in this litigation, including changes related to the procedures for applications for

ballot by mail (ABBM), mail ballots, and in-person voting for individuals with disabilities. Among other benefits, these changes should help improve the accessibility and effectiveness of the corrective action process, which allows voters to cure various defects in their ABBMs and mail ballots.

5. Senate Bill 1599 adopts multiple changes to the procedures for reviewing and correcting ABBMs and mail ballots. The bill creates a comprehensive corrective action process for voters to correct defects in their ABBMs, including allowing voters to utilize the Secretary of State's Ballot by Mail Tracker to complete certain corrective actions that are not available under existing law. The bill provides additional time, on a uniform basis, for early voting ballot boards (EVBBs) to meet to initiate the corrective action process sooner, thus allowing voters more time to correct defects in their mail ballots. Senate Bill 1599 simplifies the authentication provisions for accessing the Ballot by Mail Tracker by removing the requirement that a voter enter their voter registration address to utilize the tracker; a voter will now be required to enter their date of birth (in addition to the existing requirements of the voter's name, last four digits of social security number, and driver's license number or personal identification card number). The bill also changes the materials that an EVBB or signature verification committee (SVC) sends to a voter who submits a defective carrier envelope; as a result of Senate Bill 1599, voters would be mailed—and be authorized to return to the EVBB or SVC—a form to complete the corrective action process (rather than having to send the defective carrier itself) in addition to being able to utilize the Ballot by Mail Tracker or cancel their ABBM to correct the defect.
6. House Bill 357, similar to Senate Bill 1599, amends the authentication requirements for voters to access the Ballot by Mail Tracker. The bill removes the requirement that a voter enter their registration address to enter the system. Instead, a voter would enter their date of birth and other identifying information specified in paragraph 5 above.
7. House Bill 315 requires the Secretary of State to add a statement to the officially prescribed ABBM explaining the benefits of furnishing a telephone number on the ABBM, including how that information assists the early voting clerk. Pursuant to other provisions of the Texas Election Code, there are circumstances in which election officials may notify a voter by telephone of defects in their ABBM or mail ballot. Accordingly, in certain instances, by including their telephone number on an ABBM, a voter may be able to receive more timely notice of a defect in their balloting materials and resolve that defect prior to the specified deadlines. House Bill 315 will result in additional information being provided directly to voters regarding the State's mail ballot procedures and will allow the Secretary of State to highlight the importance of including a telephone number on balloting materials.
8. Senate Bill 975 codifies existing processes regarding the issuance of a personal identification certificate to a person who surrenders their driver's license. The bill directs

the Department of Public Safety to notify such persons that their voter registration information will need to be updated to include the identification number of the newly issued certificate and provided an opportunity to update their voter registration information at the time of applying for the certificate to include the new identification number.

9. Senate Bill 477 requires each polling place to have an area for parking not smaller than the size of one parking space reserved for curbside voting under Section 64.009 of the Texas Election Code. The bill directs election officials to clearly mark the area with a sign indicating that the space is reserved for voters who are unable to enter the polling place and displaying a telephone number that voters can use to request assistance from election officers at the polling place (or providing a button or intercom that the voter may use to request assistance from an election officer).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on June 23, 2023.


Christina Worrell Adkins